

## Book Reviews

**Lancy Lobo: *Globalization, Hindu Nationalism and Christians in India*. Rawat Publications, Jaipur, New Delhi, 2002, pp. 240, Rs. 450.**

This is about Hindu Nationalism and its relation to the minorities, especially Christians in India. The introductory chapter, after giving a statistical picture of Christians in India and their disproportionately large contribution to India's voluntary service sectors like health, education, etc., gives a quick survey of the attacks on Christians, especially in Gujarat, because of the Church's socio-economic uplift programmes for the tribals in Gujarat. Lobo describes the Sangh Parivar's well-thought out plans to attack the minority which was taken by surprise by such unexpected and uncalled for violence against them. This chapter looks to the working out of Hindu nationalism to preserve the privileges of the upper castes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter offers a more detailed profile of Hindu Nationalism with emphasis on the Sangh Parivar constituted of the RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal, Hindu Jagran Manch and Shiv Sena. Chapter three deals with the major propositions of the communal constitution by Hindu nationalism regarding Christians in India. Most of this chapter is devoted to answering the false allegations of M.V. Kamath in a Washington-based review. Chapter four is about globalization and Hindu nationalism. It describes the phenomenon of globalization in various sectors like the economic, social, Political and cultural. Hindu nationalism's reaction to globalization is at best ambiguous. The RSS calls for stiff resistance to globalization, while the BJP welcomes it and continues with globalization. Chapter five takes up Christian response to Hindu nationalism. The author argues that besides the normal approaches so far used, we need "intercultural communication" to understand each other's mindset and orientation; and secondly, a paradigm shift from a paternalistic church to a participatory model which is developed at length. The last chapter calls on the Church in India to join hands with other religious communities, with the state and other secular minded forces, as globalization is impacting them all and is the common enemy of all.

Then follow the appendices. Appendix 1 lists the incidents of violence against Christians in India from March 1977 to August 2000 (29 pages!). Two gives the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Bill 1999. Three lists the different wings of the RSS; four is M.V.Kamath's articles in Oyster, 1999. Six quotes from Gujarati papers attacking Christians,

making false accusation. Seven gives Archbishop Stanislaus' letter to the President of India. Eight gives a Hindu's defense of Christians; in nine an anonymous Hindu writes against Christians and Christ, attacking everything sacred to Christians. The book concludes with a bibliography and an index. As some of the chapters have been published earlier, there is a certain amount of repetition. A number of references given in the text are not accounted for in the Bibliography (Lourdayyan 2000, John Paul 2000, Shamat 1998, AIFOFR, Pimpert & Pretty 1994, E. Gellner 1964, Hawley 1991, Hansen 1998, Lobo 1985, 1991, and DH (p.147). Appendix 8 should have given the exact source of Jaithirth Rao's article. Notwithstanding these and some factual inaccuracies, this is a well written, very timely and useful book; it contributes to the on going dialogue with the *Hindutvawadis* to enable the Church to face up to the challenges of Hindu Nationalism.

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