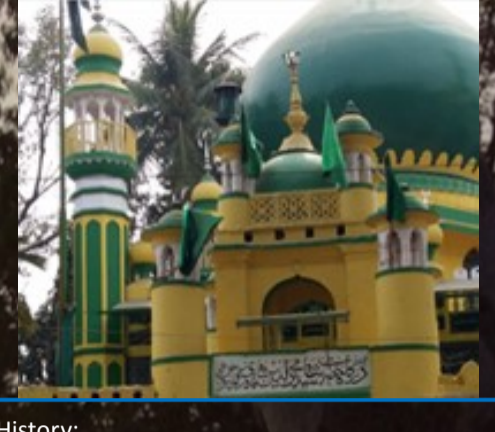


Hindu-Islamic Relations in Historical and Contemporary India



Islam:

-Monotheistic, proselytising, Anti idolatrous, fiercely doctrinal, with strong ideas about heresy.

Hinduism:

-Pantheistic, aggregation of different gods, rites, superstitions and belief.

The Religious Demographics in India:

15% of Muslims in India almost as much as Pakistan, making India one of the most populous Muslim nations in the world.

Within South India, Hinduism accounts for 80% of the populations religions, 11% of Islam and 8% of Christianity.

The religious communities in Bangalore are very tightly knit and in close proximity for instance within the village of Silvepura, there are Muslim, Christian and Hindu villages coexisting side by side.

Hindu nationalists however have used geographical implications of the word Hinduism to equate with India and therefore to exclude from the right for Muslims and Christians to thrive in India.

The two religions do not intermarry and belong to two different civilisations which are based on conflicting idea's and conceptions, history's, heroes etc. They have preserved their separate identity.



History:

7th century-Arab settlers came and subsequent expansion of the Turkish and Persians led Muslim conquests in the Indian subcontinent over the next millennium.

16th-17th century-Mughal dynasty ruled over much of India, for more than 2 centuries. The Mughals, wanted to integrate Hindus and Muslims into a united Indian state. The empire consolidated Islam in South Asia, and spread Muslim, faith and arts and culture.

18th-19th century- India lacked horses, it was the most effective vehicle to deliver lethal forces and conquer. It was the nuclear weapon of that age. Which meant successful invasions of Muslims and the British.



Hindu right wing party the BJP is the strongest political expression. Shiva Sena are strong in Mumbai, harassing Muslims and immigrants to the city who don't speak the local maharati language and Bajrang Dal who are against cow slaughter and conversions to Christianity.



Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism are seen as insider religions in India and Islam and Christianity as outsider religions, despite Christianity existing in India for 2000 years.

Hindu nationalists, such as Modi see Islam as destroying Hinduism's treasures. Hindu fanatics and chauvinists want to preserve their faith and sense of national identity, in the midst of secular modernity. Hindu nationalists provoked atrocities, in the name of producing a glorious Hindu India. In 2002 Hindu mobs killed 1000 Muslims.



Indian history being rewritten from the Hindu nationalist's perspective. School textbooks are being produced with an anti-minority bias. For Muslims and Christians difficult to get employment in the public sector. Constitution states that India is a secular country, with no religion of its own, freedom of conscience and the right to freely practise any religion. There is a certain degree of selfishness among the two groups they have segregated schools, hospitals and are fighting over social funds for these institutions.

The present leadership of the congress, especially during the last ten years, has been responsible for alienating the muslimans of India more by pursuing a policy exclusively Hindu. They refuse to cooperate with the Muslim League parties. Hindu nationalism upholds one religion, culture and nation, homogenising the differences in Hinduism, and declaring war against Muslims and Christians.



If the constitution is reformed in favour of Hindu nationalists then further conflict and political clashes could ensue between secularists, the BJP, and Muslim league parties. India might become a Muslim majority or Muslims in India will face the possibility of subordination, expulsion and genocide. But if things remain normal, Muslims of India will face the following four options: assimilation, pluralism, secession and dominance.



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