

Hindu Wife and Hindu Nation Gender: Religion and the Prehistory of Indian Nationalism

Tanika Sarkar

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This text discusses the Hindu ideas and traditions that have shaped dominant conceptions of Indian women and the nation as a whole. It examines how these traditions are being subverted or transformed by fundamentalist forms of Hinduism. The concepts of Indian "womanhood", "domesticity", "wifeliness", "mothering", and India as a Hindu nation are examined through the literary and social traditions, popular culture and rhetoric, which have shaped the reality of modern India. This book is a critique of many of the dominating concepts by which some Indians live today.

'Combines first-rate and pathbreaking historical research and interpretations with vigorous critique of the theoretical turns that South Asian Studies have recently taken. [A...] This is no dry-as-dust history. [A...] The essays are all informed by a lively sense of a passionate commitment to gender, justice and progressive social change.' -Prof Dipesh Chakrabarty, University of Chicago