



RELIGION on the EDGE

MODI: SAVIOUR OF INDIA?

I am repulsed but not surprised at the article entitled " Why does the world need a leader like Modi" (Rising Sun 22 Aug.2023). The article, in tones of admiration, points out that 'India (under Modi) is increasingly courted by Western powers, and that Modi is growing in national and international stature'.

Not too long ago the same sentiments were expressed about Hitler. Modi, like Hitler, weaponized extremist religious views and fascist nationalism. I may also point out that many German citizens (at home and abroad) were also enamored with Hitler, in the same manner many Indian citizens are with Modi. It appears that the only thing we learn from history is that we do NOT learn from History (Perhaps a study of recent Muslim extremist groups may help?).

At any rate, as an antidote to the gushing article, I wish to present a reality check. Amnesty International in their 2022/2023 report points out the following: 'Under Modi, arbitrary arrests and prolonged detentions in India have skyrocketed. This is in addition to restrictions placed upon people who wish to protest. Attacks on minorities have also become routine, and the hate-based caste system has received a fresh injection.

Further, Meenakshi Ganguly of Human Rights Watch observes: 'On the eve of the state visit, U.S. lawmakers [sent a letter](#) to President Biden about democratic and human rights backsliding under Modi's leadership, as did more than 50 [civil society groups](#), mostly from the Indian-American diaspora. [Trucks in New York City](#) carried billboard screens about human rights failures tagging Modi as the "#CrimeMinisterOfIndia.." "¹

¹ <https://www.justsecurity.org/87115/hate-speech-from-modi-supporters-belies-his-claims-of-indian-democracy-during-us-visit/>

Yes, Modi may have glamourized some of his achievements in India, but why ignore the fact that " 80 percent of sewage generated in India flows UNTREATED into its rivers"? (Economic Times- English edition). Or that Indian farmers have revolted and accused Modi of supporting big business at their expense (APMorning Wire News) and so forth.

In conclusion, I recommend that people cast sentimentality aside and have a long honest look at what is happening in India today, or we may shortly be witnessing genocide or civil war in India, and pretend that it has come as a surprising shock.

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