



## India's political trajectory: towards ethno-democracy?

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### ABSTRACT:

Ethnic democracy has been defined by political scientists as regime which rely on free and fair elections and are endowed with rule of law-oriented institutions (including a relatively independent judiciary) but where ethnic majorities (based on religion or language) are coterminous with political majorities - hence the related notion of « majoritarianism ». India, after years of erosion of its specific brand of secularism, is evolving towards such a pattern, the Hindu majority asserting itself at the expense of minorities such as Muslims and Christians. It is, however, inventing a variant of this type of democracy because the Modi government is also relying on purely populist techniques. This is due to the capacity of Narendra Modi to relate directly to the Indian citizens and to saturate the public space.

### READING LIST:

Sammy Smootha, "The model of ethnic democracy: Israel as a Jewish and democratic state", *Nations and Nationalism*, vol. 8, no. 4 (2002), pp. 475\_503

Christophe Jaffrelot, "The Modi-centric BJP 2014 election campaign: New techniques and old tactics", *Contemporary South Asia*, vol. 23, no 2, June 2015, pp. 151 – 166.

Ishan Marvel, « In the name of the mother. How the states nurtures the gau rakshaks of Haryana », *The Caravan*, 1 Sept. 2016.

Christophe Jaffrelot, "Narendra Modi between Hindutva and subnationalism: The Gujarati *asmita* of a Hindu Hriday Samrat », *India Review*, Vol. 15, n° 2, 2016, pp. 196 – 217.