

ISAS Public Lecture Series

Ideology



& Identity

PRADEEP K. CHHIBBER
RAHUL VERMA

Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India

a talk by

Rahul Verma

PhD Candidate, Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

ABOUT THE BOOK: Indian party politics, commonly viewed as chaotic, clientelistic, and corrupt, is nevertheless a

model for deepening democracy and accommodating diversity. Historically, though, observers have argued that Indian politics is non-ideological in nature. In contrast, Pradeep Chhibber and Rahul Verma contend that the Western European paradigm of “ideology” is not applicable to many contemporary multiethnic countries. Using survey data from the Indian National Election Studies and evidence from the Constituent Assembly debates, they show in more diverse states such as India, the most important ideological debates center on statism - the extent to which the state should dominate and regulate society- and recognition- whether and how the state should accommodate various marginalized groups and protect minority rights from majorities.

SPEAKER BIO: Rahul Verma is pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, with a focus on comparative politics and political behavior. His research includes voting behavior, party politics, political violence, bureaucracy, and democracy. His ongoing doctoral dissertation focuses on understanding the nature of elite power in rural India. He is associated with Lokniti-CSDS in Delhi. He also writes regular columns on Indian politics for two Indian Newspapers – The Indian Express and The Hindu, and has published papers in Asian Survey, Economic and Political Weekly, and Studies in Indian Politics. Prior to starting his Ph.D. at Berkeley, Rahul completed his M.Phil. in Political Science from Delhi University, M.A. in Development Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai and a B.A. from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University.

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5 - 7 pm

10 Stephens Hall, (For directions look up “Institute for South Asia Studies” on Google Maps)

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