

VOLUME 31, ISSUES 1 & 2, JANUARY - JUNE, 2024

ISSN 0972-5563

Journal of Peace Studies

ISSN 0972-5563

Journal of Peace Studies

VOLUME 31, ISSUES 1 & 2, JANUARY - JUNE, 2024



PUBLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE STUDIES

Journal of Peace Studies

C O N T E N T S

From the Editors' Desk 1

ARTICLES

Re-Envisioning China,
Reorienting India *Shraddha Rishi &
Ajay Kumar Mishra* 3

Can Culture Act as a 'Unifying Tool'
in South Asia? *Raee Sahu* 18

Shimglina Customary Conflict
Resolution Mechanism for Rural
Land Disputes in Ethiopia:
The Practice and Challenges *Asmare Shetahun Alemneh* 37

Containing Baloch Nationalism in
Pakistan: Approaches and Challenges *Ahmad Reza Taheri &
Yaser Kahrazeh* 57

OPINION

National Report by China
in the 45th UPR Session: Hiding
More than it Reveals *Ankita Sanyal* 78

Widening Gulf between
Pakistan and AJK *Nazir Ahmad Mir* 100

BOOK REVIEW

Shadows at Noon By *Joya Chatterji* *Harsh Pandey* 109

Religious Organisations in
Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia
by *Carole Rakodi* *Anita Behuria* 112

Journal of Peace Studies

**FOUNDING EDITOR**

LATE PROF. RIYAZ PUNJABI

ADVISORY BOARD

T. K. OOMMEN
SALEEM KIDWAI
RENÉ WADLOW

EDITORIAL BOARD

G BALACHANDRAN
NOOR A. BABA
AJAY DARSHAN BEHERA
ADIL RASHEED

EDITOR (HONY)

ASHOK BEHURIA

CONSULTING EDITOR (HONY)

SMRUTI S. PATTANAİK

ASST. EDITORS

PRATEEK JOSHI
WASEEM MALLA

DESIGN

BRINDA DATTA

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY

SHEIKH KHALID JEHangIR

International Centre for Peace Studies

Office Address:

157/9, Block 4, Second Floor, Kishangarh,

Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-1110070

Regd. Address:

C-11 Jangpura Extension

New Delhi – 110 014

Tel: (91-11) 49989230, +91-9810317972

<http://www.icpsnet.org>

Emails: cpsndjps@gmail.com;

jps@icpsnet.org

Printed at:

A.M. Offsetters
Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi
PIN- 110 003, TEL: 2463 2395

OVERSEAS BRANCH**UNITED KINGDOM**

14 QUERCETUM CLOSE
HP198JN, AYLESBURY
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SUBSCRIPTION**In India**

Single Copy: Rs. 150.00

Annual

(Individual) Rs. 600.00

(Institutional) Rs. 1200.00

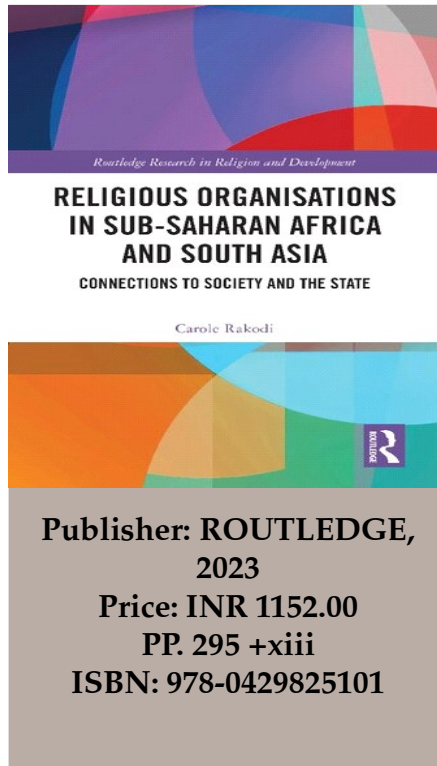
Overseas (Air Mail)

Single Copy: US\$ 7.50

UK£4.50

Annual: US\$ 45.00

BOOK REVIEW



Does Religion Shape Development?

Anita Behuria*



This book by Dr. Carole Rakodi, who is an Emeritus Professor at the International Development Department, School of

Government and Society, University of Birmingham, UK, was published in 2023. She is also serving as the Director, Religions and Development Research Programme in the University. A notable scholar in the field of urban studies and development, her work primarily focuses on the dynamics of urbanization, informal settlements, and social policy, particularly in developing countries.

However, in her recent research she has focussed on an important issue of religion and the way it relates to society. In an important work in 2019, she had dwelt on how understanding of beliefs, practices, organization influence social imagination and thinking on development in particularly Asia and Africa. Dr. Rakodi also explored, in this earlier work, the intersections of religion and development, particularly how religious beliefs and institutions influence social and economic development in urban settings. Her research often highlights the role of faith-based organizations in addressing issues

**Dr. Anita Behuria teaches political Science in JKBK College, Cuttack, Odisha, India.*

BOOK REVIEW

such as poverty, health, and education.

Her most recent book, which is being reviewed here, focuses on the organizational traits of faiths and civilizations and expands on her earlier examination of how religious practices, beliefs, and values affect social behaviour and relationships, particularly within families. She explores how religious organizations may mobilize resources and deliver social services; frequently filling gaps left by state institutions. She also examines the ways in which religious beliefs impact community priorities and development strategies, which in turn affect social cohesiveness and resilience.

The book explores the ways in which Muslim, Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist organizations operating in various settings in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) convey the religious ideals of altruism and compassion through useful endeavours aimed at enhancing societal welfare. The book, which is based on substantial empirical research, maps the organizations involved, pointing out the parallels and contrasts between the many religious traditions and explaining the reasons for their choice of activities, financing sources, and

organizational structures. It examines the role played by religious actors in worldwide humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts, as well as in education at the school level. It also responds to the argument that religious organizations have unique advantages over other types of organizations.

Dr. Rakodi posits in the book based on her research that “the evolution of Islamic organisations and their social engagements have some common features in South Asia and SSA, but there are also many significant subcontinental, regional and national differences”. Her research on India is particularly instructive. She has tried to gather facts regarding missionary activities in India and held that the historical links between British Colonialism in India and Christian missionary is quite complex. She goes on to say that initially the colonial administration looked at missionaries as impediments to its commercial interests. However, as colonial rule stabilised, by early 19th century, it not only tolerated missionary activity but encouraged it in the north-eastern India.

She has given some figures which could add fuel to right wing concerns

BOOK REVIEW

in India today, unless of course it is contextualised in a non-political manner. The data she has gathered for her research reveals that during the twentieth century, the number of mission organisations and missionaries continued to grow rapidly, to 4,300 agencies and 320,000 missionaries by 1994. Although Roman Catholic missionaries still outnumbered those associated with other churches, the share of American Protestants in the total grew from 27% of 18,000+ missionaries in 1900 to 59% of about 76,000 by 1992, backed up by increased and sustained funding, although the number of long-term American missionaries fell and the number of short termers and local missionaries rose. (p. 114)

She has also taken up for her study new religious groups in India formed around gurus, who have created their own communities of believers and questioned the role of the state and the dominant religious practices. Cultural organisations like Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) also finds mention in her work. She goes on to say that such *sangathans* “organised around various activities called seva, which among other aims sought to enable individual sevaks (volunteers) to acquire a new religio-political identity, that of an imagined Hindu nation” (p. 142). A brief history

of RSS is provided in the book with a tentative view that “the tensions between religious and sociopolitical aims inform the analysis of contemporary Hindu organisations’ social involvement that follows” (p. 143).

She also notes that because of widespread mistrust of secular NGOs and state organisations, individual and group donations in India are often directed towards religious organisations engaged in building temples and shrines. “Support for Hindu nationalist organisations and their welfare arms is used for purposes that are ostensibly religious (e.g. temple building) or apparently secular (e.g. education)”, she concludes.

Overall, it is an engaging book and a must read for scholars engaged in research on religion and its growing influence in developing societies in the post-colonial context. The role of religious values and organisations in resisting or promoting social change, focusing on women’s movements, especially their campaigns for changes in family law, and the quest for social and legal recognition for gender minorities.

The book’s wide coverage of two subcontinents in the Global South

BOOK REVIEW

and several important religious traditions will be of interest to researchers and students in the fields of sociology, international development, religious studies, anthropology and area studies, as

well as to those engaged in policy and action who are looking to improve their understanding of the complex social, cultural, political and religious contexts in which they work. ■

Note for readers and subscribers

We are happy to inform you that from January 2009 we have introduced the system of peer review of articles to ensure quality of publications and improve the scholarly value of our journal. We have a renowned group of scholars and academicians associated with our Centre and they are helping us in this process. We are grateful to them for their kind support and cooperation.

We would request our readers and subscribers to take note of these changes and we would, as ever, encourage them to send in research articles for publication to us. The manuscripts of research papers submitted for publication should be neatly typed in double space and the length of the papers should be ideally between 3,000-5000 words including the footnotes. They should contain an abstract and a short introduction of the author. The authors should use Harvard style for their references. The articles can be sent to us in an electronic format, (Ms Word 2003 or above format) also. For detailed guidelines they may send their queries to us in the following address.

Journal of Peace Studies Research Section

Emails: cpsndjps@gmail.com, jps@icpsnet.org

Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers
RNI No. 57199/93



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE STUDIES

C-11, Jangpura Extension,
New Delhi – 110 014, INDIA

Tel: (91-11) 49989230, +91-9560126157, 9810317972

Websites: <http://www.icpsnet.org> (Main),
www.icpsorg.com (Kashmir chapter)

Emails: cpsndjps@gmail.com, jps@icpsnet.org