

ABSTRACT

Despite modernization and globalization being at the forefront of the society, religion still seems to be dominant and evolving concept in response to the expanding international relations. This might be noticed with the global development of religious nationalism. Most religious nationalist parties are characterized with puritanical element that color their political platforms and ways of attaining power. Furthermore, in many nations, religious nationalists argue for economic austerity or severe anti-corruption measures via moral appeals and rhetoric. Lastly, religious politics often reveals a majoritarian nationalism that strives to redefine the society.

India merits a more in-depth examination due to its democratic orientation and size. The intersection between religion and politics in India is problematic. The revival of the Bhartiya Janta Party (Henceforth BJP) brought religion back to the forefront of Indian politics. Introducing an alternative nationalism that is not secular in character but rather founded on the idea that Indian and Hindu cultures are the same. The thesis will argue by implementing the secularization thesis and its critical discourse as the theoretical concept and analyses the rise of Hindu nationalism throughout history.

As well, explore its evolution from its birth to present day. Examine the impact of politicizing of religious ideologies under the BJP government post 2014 Parliamentary elections fermenting extremism and anti-minority sentiments. And provide a differentiating truth about Hindutva which is fascist, authoritarian, and majoritarian in nature and is leading the Indian democracy towards right-wing ethnic democracy.