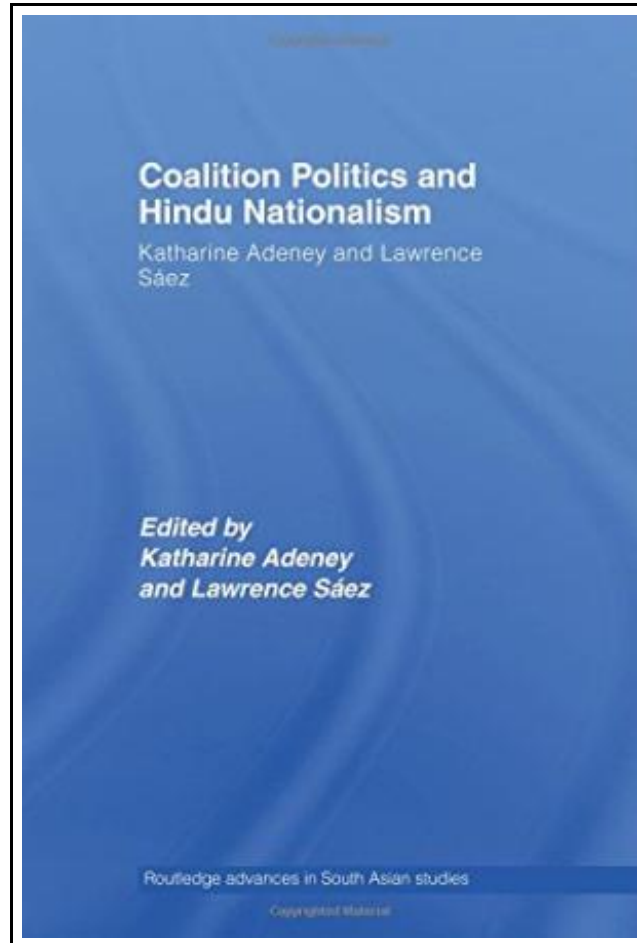


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Routledge, London, UK. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Religious influence in contemporary politics offers a fertile ground for political-sociological analysis, especially in societies where religion is a very important source of collective identity. In South Asian societies religion can, and often has, provided legitimacy to both governments and those who oppose them. This book examines the emergence of the BJP and the ways in which the Hindu nationalist agenda has been affected by the constraints of being a dominant member of a coalition government. The collected authors take stock of the party's first full term in power, presiding over the diverse forces of the governing NDA coalition, and the 2004 elections. They assess the BJP's performance in relation to its stated goals, and more specifically how it has fared in a range of policy fields--centre-state relations, foreign policy, defence policies, the 'second generation' of economic reforms, initiatives to curb corruption and the fate of minorities. Explicitly linking the volume to literature on coalition politics, this book will be of great importance to students and researchers in the fields of comparative politics and South Asian studies and politics. Contents List of illustrations List of contributors Acknowledgements Glossary of acronyms and concepts Part I: Theoretical Concerns Introduction, Coalition Politics, religious nationalism and public policy: a theoretical examination 1. The BJP coalition: partisanship and power-sharing in government 2. The shapes of Hindu nationalism 3. In part, a myth: the BJP's organisational strength Part II: Domestic governance 4. The NDA and the politics of 'minorities' in India 5. Hindu nationalists and federal structures in an era of regionalism 6. Social justice and empowerment of the weaker sections and gender rights 7. Managing the anti-corruption rhetoric: the National Democratic Alliance, transparency and corruption 8. Indian education policy under the NDA government Part III: External...



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