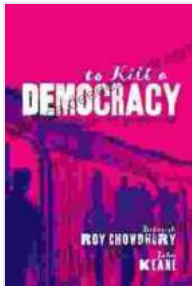


# India's Passage to Despotism: A Long and Winding Road



## To Kill A Democracy: India's Passage to Despotism

by John Keane

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
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India, the world's largest democracy, is at a crossroads. The country has been on a steady decline towards authoritarianism in recent years, and there are growing fears that it could become a fully-fledged dictatorship in the not-too-distant future.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to India's passage to despotism. One key factor has been the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a right-wing Hindu nationalist party that has been in power since 2014. The BJP has pursued a number of policies that have eroded democratic institutions and strengthened the power of the executive.

For example, the BJP has passed a number of laws that have restricted freedom of speech and assembly. It has also cracked down on dissent and

criticism of the government. In addition, the BJP has packed the judiciary with its own appointees, which has weakened the independence of the courts.

Another factor that has contributed to India's passage to despotism has been the rise of Hindutva, a radical form of Hindu nationalism. Hindutva proponents believe that India is a Hindu nation and that all other religions are foreign to the country. They have been behind a number of violent attacks on Muslims and other minorities.

The BJP has been complicit in the rise of Hindutva. It has passed a number of laws that have discriminated against Muslims and other minorities. It has also turned a blind eye to the violence that Hindutva groups have perpetrated.

The combination of the BJP's authoritarian policies and the rise of Hindutva has created a dangerous situation in India. The country is now on the brink of becoming a fully-fledged dictatorship. If this happens, it would be a major setback for democracy in the world.

## **The Key Events and Developments that Have Led to India's Current State of Affairs**

There are a number of key events and developments that have led to India's current state of affairs. These include:

- The election of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014
- The passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019
- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR)

- The COVID-19 pandemic

## **The Election of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014**

The election of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014 was a watershed moment in Indian history. Modi is a right-wing Hindu nationalist who has long been associated with the BJP. His election to the Prime Ministership marked the beginning of a new era in Indian politics.

Since coming to power, Modi has pursued a number of policies that have eroded democratic institutions and strengthened the power of the executive. For example, he has cracked down on dissent and criticism of the government. He has also packed the judiciary with his own appointees.

## **The Passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019**

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is a controversial law that was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2019. The CAA grants citizenship to non-Muslim immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh who entered India before 2015.

The CAA has been widely criticized as being discriminatory. It has also been linked to an increase in violence against Muslims in India.

## **The National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR)**

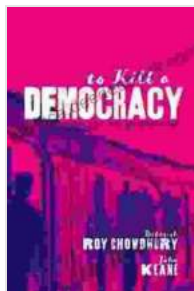
The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a list of all Indian citizens. The NRC was first compiled in 1951. The government is currently in the process of updating the NRC.

The National Population Register (NPR) is a database of all Indian residents. The NPR was first compiled in 2010. The government is currently in the process of updating the NPR.

The NRC and NPR are seen as a threat to the citizenship of many Muslims in India. This is because many Muslims do not have the necessary documentation to prove their citizenship.

## The COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-



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