



Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Communal Riots in India

By Steven I. Wilkinson

Cambridge University Press, New Delhi, India. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Why does ethnic violence break out in some places and not others? More important, why do some governments try to prevent antiminority riots while others do nothing, or even actively encourage attacks? This book answers these questions through a detailed study of Hindu-Muslim riots in India, as well as case studies of Ireland, Malaysia, and Romania. It shows how electoral incentives at two levels interact to explain both where violence breaks out and, more importantly, why some states decide to prevent mass violence and others do not. While developing this electoral incentives model, the author shows why several alternative explanations for ethnic violence - focusing on town-level social and economic factors, the weak capacity of the Indian state, or India's alleged lack of "consociational power sharing" - cannot explain the observed variation in Hindu-Muslim riots. Contents List of figures List of tables Acknowledgements 1. The Electoral Incentives for Ethnic Violence 2. Explaining Town-Level Variation in Hindu-Muslim Violence 3. State Capacity Explanations for Hindu-Muslim Violence 5. The Electoral Incentives for Hindu-Muslim Violence 6. Party Competition and Hindu-Muslim Violence 7. The Electoral Incentives for Ethnic Violence in Comparative Perspective 8...



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