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## Civil Society and Democracy: A Reader

By Carolyn M. Elliott (ed.)

Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2005. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. The concept of civil society has today captured the imagination of a wide global community. Its proponents find in the idea benefits such as empowering citizens for problem solving, counter-balancing the state, preserving individual privacy, and deepening people's participation in government to increase effectiveness and improve governance. This volume discusses the idea of civil society and its relationship with democracy and governance in India. It explores how the concept of civil society developed in the western tradition of political thought, and compares India's experience with those of China, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The volume offers a unique combination of analysis by political theorists with empirical studies in comparative politics. The readings discuss modes of civil society and its articulation in the public sphere. They analyse the relationship of civil society to liberalism, pluralism, and ideas of nationhood in multicultural societies, cultural attributes and entrenched ideas, as also the institutional framework in which the idea operates. The essays also engage with the influence of civil society on important elements in a nation's existence including markets, competing ethnicities, and accumulation of social capital, in...



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