

Department of Political Science

Constitutionalizing India: an Ideational Project

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The 1950 Constitution of India is an outcome of an ideational battle that had begun long before it was formally framed by the members of the Constituent Assembly in little less than three years between 1946 and 1949. Tracing its intellectual genealogy to the philosophy of Enlightenment, the paper shows that the constitution heavily drew upon the liberal values of constitutionalism which flourished in India in the wake of colonial rule. Being sensitive to the Gandhian preference for village swaraj, the founding fathers also addressed the concern of the Gandhians in the Assembly by incorporating a new chapter in the Constitution. In order to capture the complex interplay of ideas that culminated with the inauguration of the Constitution in India in 1950, the article pays adequate attention to the endeavours that the colonial rulers and their bete-noire, the nationalists, had undertaken to constitutionalize India.



Professor Bidyut Chakrabarty is a faculty at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, India. He has also been Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. He has taught in some of the most prestigious educational institutions such as the London School of Economics; Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, India; Monash University, Australia; National University of Singapore and Hamburg University, Germany. Prof. Chakrabarty has authored three books for SAGE India: Indian Government and Politics (with Rajendra Kumar Pandey, 2008);

Modern Indian Political Thought (with Rajendra Kumar Pandey, 2009) and Public Administration in a Globalizing World (with Prakash Chand, 2012).

Date: Monday, May 29, 2017

Time: 16:00 – 18:00

Venue: SAI, Room 317

All are cordially invited!

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