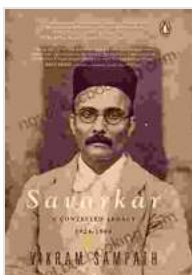


Savarkar: Contested Legacy and the Making of Modern India, 1924-1966

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement, remains a subject of ongoing debate and contested interpretations. This article explores the life and legacy of Savarkar, delving into his multifaceted role in the making of modern India during the period of 1924-1966.

Early Life and Political Activism

Born in 1883 in Nashik, Maharashtra, Savarkar's early life was marked by his exposure to nationalist ideas. He later travelled to London to study law, where he became involved in revolutionary activities against British rule. In 1906, he joined the India House, a center for Indian nationalist activities in London, and became actively involved in organizing Indian students and advocating for India's independence.



Savarkar (Part 2): A Contested Legacy, 1924-1966

by Vikram Sampath

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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Print length : 910 pages

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Indian Independence Movement

Upon his return to India in 1910, Savarkar quickly became a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement. He advocated for the use of armed struggle against British rule and was arrested by British authorities in 1910. Sentenced to transportation for life, he spent 14 years in the infamous Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands.

While in prison, Savarkar wrote extensively about Indian history, nationalism, and Hindutva. His book "Hindutva: Who Is a Hindu?" published in 1923, outlined his ideas on Hindu nationalism and its role in the Indian independence struggle.

Hindutva and Hindu Nationalism

Savarkar's concept of Hindutva was influenced by both traditional Hindu beliefs and European nationalist movements. He argued that Hindu culture and identity were central to Indian nationhood and that India's past glory was rooted in its Hindu heritage. Savarkar's ideas resonated with many Hindus, who saw him as a champion of their religious and cultural identity.

However, Savarkar's advocacy for Hindutva also stirred controversy. Critics argued that his ideas were divisive and promoted religious intolerance. They pointed to his support for the Hindu Mahasabha, a right-wing Hindu nationalist organization, and his opposition to the Muslim League's demand for a separate Muslim state.

Partition and Independence

As India approached independence in 1947, Savarkar played a role in the negotiations between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. He advocated for a united India but was opposed to the idea of

partition. When the Partition of India became a reality, Savarkar was deeply disappointed and blamed it on the policies of the Muslim League and its leader, Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

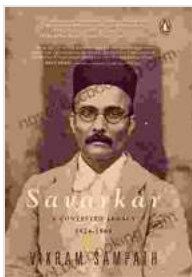
Post-Independence India

After India's independence, Savarkar continued to be active in politics. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly of India and served as a member of the Hindu Mahasabha. He continued to advocate for Hindutva and criticized the policies of the Nehru government.

Death and Legacy

Savarkar died in 1966, leaving behind a complex and contested legacy. He was praised by many for his patriotism and sacrifice in the fight for Indian independence, while others criticized his views on Hindutva and his role in the partition of India.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was a multifaceted figure whose life and legacy continue to shape debates about Indian history and identity. His advocacy for Hindu nationalism and his role in the Indian independence movement have made him a subject of ongoing controversy and interpretation. By examining Savarkar's life and times, we gain a deeper understanding of the complex forces that shaped modern India.



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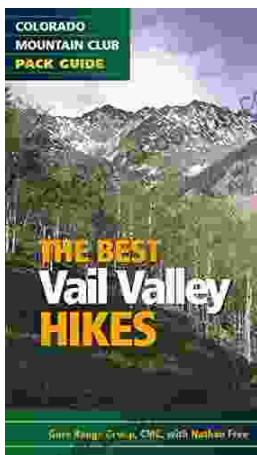
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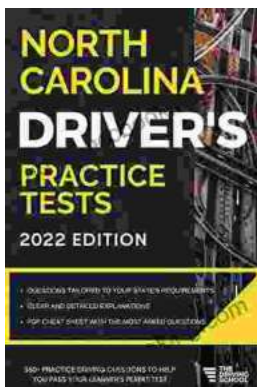
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