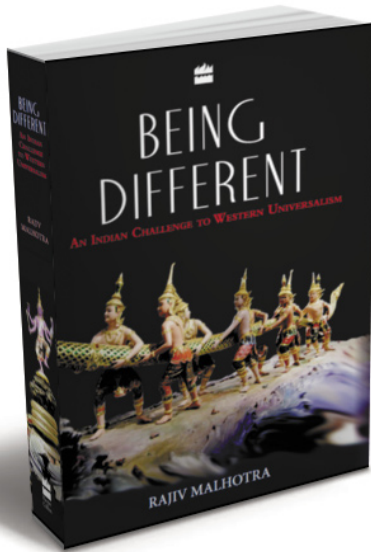


New Release

Being Different: An Indian Challenge to Western Universalism by Rajiv Malhotra

Praise for the Book



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The discussions and debate within the book employ the venerable tradition of purva-paksha, an ancient dharmic technique where a debater must first authentically understand in the opponent's perspective, test the merits of that point of view and only then engage in debate using his own position. Purva-paksha encourages individuals to become truly knowledgeable about all perspectives, to approach the other side with respect and to forego the desire to simply win the contest. Purva-paksha also demands that all sides be willing to embrace the shifts in thinking, disruptive and controversial as they may be, that emerge from such a dialectical process.

'This highly original book leads its reader on an epic journey of self-discovery especially for those of us in the West. A fitting and major response to Samuel Huntington's position on "who are we" as the West; one that can perhaps best be provided by someone reversing the gaze on the West through a non-Western lens. This deserves to be one of the defining books of the age'

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'*Being Different* is a provocative and important book for two distinct reasons. First, the book is one of the few attempts by an Indian intellectual to challenge seriously the assumptions and presuppositions of the field of India and/or South Asian studies tout ensemble, including not only the work of European and American scholarship but as well the neocolonialist, postmodernist and subaltern resentment so typical of contemporary Indian intellectuals. Second, and perhaps of greater significance, is Malhotra's attempt to analyze the meaning and significance of Indic culture from within the indigenous presuppositions of India's own intellectual traditions, including the ontological claims of Indic cosmology, the epistemology of yogic experience, the unique Indic appreciation for complexity, and the nuances of Sanskritic expression. The book will be controversial on many different levels and will undoubtedly elicit rigorous critical response'

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'This is a memorable book asking us to put aside modernity's tired categories and lazy comparisons, and at last to take seriously the Indian perspective on history and our world today. *Being Different* is here a necessary virtue, essential to understanding our neighbors and ourselves. Much reflection and many a good argument should follow upon Malhotra's unique achievement'

– **FRANCIS X. CLOONEY**, *Society of Jesus, and Parkman Professor of Divinity, Harvard University*

'This book is a "must read" for those who care about India and its future.'

– **MAKARAND R. PARANJAPE**, *Professor of English, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi*

"India is more than a nation state. It is also a unique civilization with philosophies and cosmologies that are markedly distinct from the dominant culture of our times – the West. This book addresses the challenge of direct and honest engagement on differences, looking at the West from the dharmic point of view. "

– **Rajiv Malhotra**

