

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910958456403321
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Titolo	Ethnic conflict and civic life : Hindus and Muslims in India / / Ashutosh Varshney
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, CT, : Yale University Press, c2002
ISBN	1-281-72984-1 9786611729844 0-300-12794-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (400 p.)
Disciplina	954/.0088/2971
Soggetti	Communalism - India Ethnic conflict - India Hindus - India Muslims - India India Politics and government 1947-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 319-371) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Series Foreword -- Acknowledgments -- CHAPTER 1: Introduction and Historical Perspectives -- CHAPTER 2: The Meaning and Measurement of Social Support -- CHAPTER 3: Theoretical Perspectives Linking Social Support to Health Outcomes -- CHAPTER 4: Social Support and All-Cause Mortality -- CHAPTER 5: Social Support and Mortality From Specific Diseases -- CHAPTER 6: Pathways Linking Social Support to Health Outcomes -- CHAPTER 7: Intervention Implications -- CHAPTER 8: Future Directions and Conclusions -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	What kinds of civic ties between different ethnic communities can contain, or even prevent, ethnic violence? This book draws on new research on Hindu-Muslim conflict in India to address this important question. Ashutosh Varshney examines three pairs of Indian cities-one city in each pair with a history of communal violence, the other with a history of relative communal harmony-to discern why violence between Hindus and Muslims occurs in some situations but not others. His findings will be of strong interest to scholars, politicians, and

policymakers of South Asia, but the implications of his study have theoretical and practical relevance for a broad range of multiethnic societies in other areas of the world as well. The book focuses on the networks of civic engagement that bring Hindu and Muslim urban communities together. Strong associational forms of civic engagement, such as integrated business organizations, trade unions, political parties, and professional associations, are able to control outbreaks of ethnic violence, Varshney shows. Vigorous and communally integrated associational life can serve as an agent of peace by restraining those, including powerful politicians, who would polarize Hindus and Muslims along communal lines.
