

# **India and the 'Anglosphere':**

## **A Postcolonial Genealogy**

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## Abstract

Policy-makers and commentators across the English-speaking world have recently become immensely enthusiastic about India. India has become known as ‘the world’s largest democracy’, a ‘natural ally’, the ‘democratic counterweight’ to China, a trading partner of ‘massive economic potential’, and sometimes as part of the ‘Anglosphere’. Much of this has been animated by deeply problematic colonial assumptions about India. This thesis mounts a three-fold argument. First, I argue that IR theory and the English-speaking world share the same ‘India Problem’, as both have consistently interpreted India on the basis of colonial assumptions. Second, I suggest that historically there have been two broad approaches to the idea of English-speaking unity: a racialized, exclusive narrative and a pluralist-yet-hierarchical narrative. Finally, I argue through four case studies on ideational politics between India and Anglosphere states, that India rejects outright the racialized narrative of English-speaking unity and resists the hierarchy inherent in the pluralist narrative.

## **Thesis Declaration**

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## **List of Abbreviations:**

BJP = Bharatiya Janata Party

BSL = Barr-Smith Library

CTBT = Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

ICS = Indian Civil Service

INC = Indian National Congress

LAC = Library and Archives Canada

MEA = Ministry of External Affairs

NAA = National Archives of Australia

NAI = National Archives of India

NDA = National Democratic Alliance

NMML = Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

NPT – Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty

NSG = Nuclear Suppliers Group

UKNA = United Kingdom National Archives

UPA = United Progressive Alliance

WMD = Weapons of Mass Destruction

WTO = World Trade Organisation