THE UGLY FACE OF
HINDUTVA

A Threat To Our National Survival

ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF MAMATA BANERJEE

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DEDICATION

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Foreword

All social philosophies and faiths flourished in this country without any malice, prejudice and discrimination is called *Hindutva*. Since the issue of *Hindutva* is alive in the present political and social contexts, it is apt to explain in simple terms the basics of *Hindutva*. Literally '*Hindutva*' means a way of life or a state of mind that is based on the cultural and spiritual ethos based on the spiritual systems that evolved from India. A way of life, national tradition, concept of materialism, *Sanatana Dharma,* no scope for untouchabihty, secularism, patriotism are some of the fundamental features associated with the philosophy of *Hindutva.* It denotes the multi-mosaic Indian culture. There are a plenty of historical records to illustrate and demonstrate how *Hindustan* has, down the ages, been to mean India. For example, Sir Syed Ahmed, the founder of the Aligarh Muslim University, as calling himself a *Hindu*. Poet Iqbal's words, '*Hindu hain ham watanhai Hindustan hamara*' and Mahatma Gandhi's prayer, '*Ishwar Allah terenam sab ko Sanmati de Bhagwan*' are more meaningful to convey the message of *Hindutva*. *Hindutva* is not a religion as it does not convey the sense of '*Hindu* religion'.

Hindutva now a days does not stop at cultivating intolerance of difference from its view of history and its newly found *Hindu* orthodoxy.It has deliberately been cultivating anger and hatred because of its view that *Hindu* India easily passed under Muslim rule because it had lost the martial spirit. Therefore, it cultivates not only militancy in dealing with non-*Hindus* but also an aggressive kind of militarism. The attack on young boys and girls in a pub in Mangalore by the *Hindu Jagarana Vedike* is the example of the fanaticism; the ugly face of *Hindutva*. Similarly, the Babri mosque in Ayodhya was destroyed in 1992 by the adherents of *Hindutva* as an act of restitution.

In the name of defending *Hindu* values, vigilante mobs are lynching and killing people suspected of eating or trading cows, and the country's openly *Hindutva*, or 'Hindu-first', government has done little to stop them. From meat politics to love *jihads*, such incidents have strained India's constitutional values and secular fabric, leaving many to wonder whether Prime Minister Modi's development agenda – for which he has declared "*Sab Ka Saath Sab Vikaas*" (development for all together) – is just a farce.Indeed, the atmosphere of fear and insecurity stoked among

India's minorities may have been intentionally crafted to consolidate *Hindu* power in the upcoming 2019 election.

With this foreword note, I wish all success to the author and for the present book.

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