

Understanding India (Lecture Series)

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“India and its Democracy”

Rajeev Bhargava

**Rajeev Bhargava** was until recently Director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS). He is currently a Professor at the centre and the director of its newly launched Institute of Indian Thought. He has been a Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (1980-2005), and between 2001 and 2005 Head of Department of Political Science at the University of Delhi. Rajeev Bhargava did his BA in economics at the University of Delhi, and his MPhil and DPhil at Oxford University. He is a Honorary Fellow, Balliol college Oxford and Professorial Fellow at the Institute of social justice, ACU, Sydney. He has also been a Fellow at Harvard University, University of Bristol, Institute of Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin, and the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna. He has also been a Distinguished Resident Scholar, Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life at Columbia University, and the Asia Chair at Sciences Po, Paris. Bhargava has held visiting professorships at several universities.

Bhargava's publications include *Individualism in Social Science* (1992), *What is Political Theory and Why Do We Need It?* (2010), and *The Promise of India's Secular Democracy* (2010). His edited works are *Secularism and Its Critics* (1998) and *Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution* (2008). His work on secularism and methodological individualism is internationally acclaimed. He has contributed to the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* and the *Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*. Bhargava is on the advisory board of several national and international institutions, and was a consultant for the UNDP report on cultural liberty.