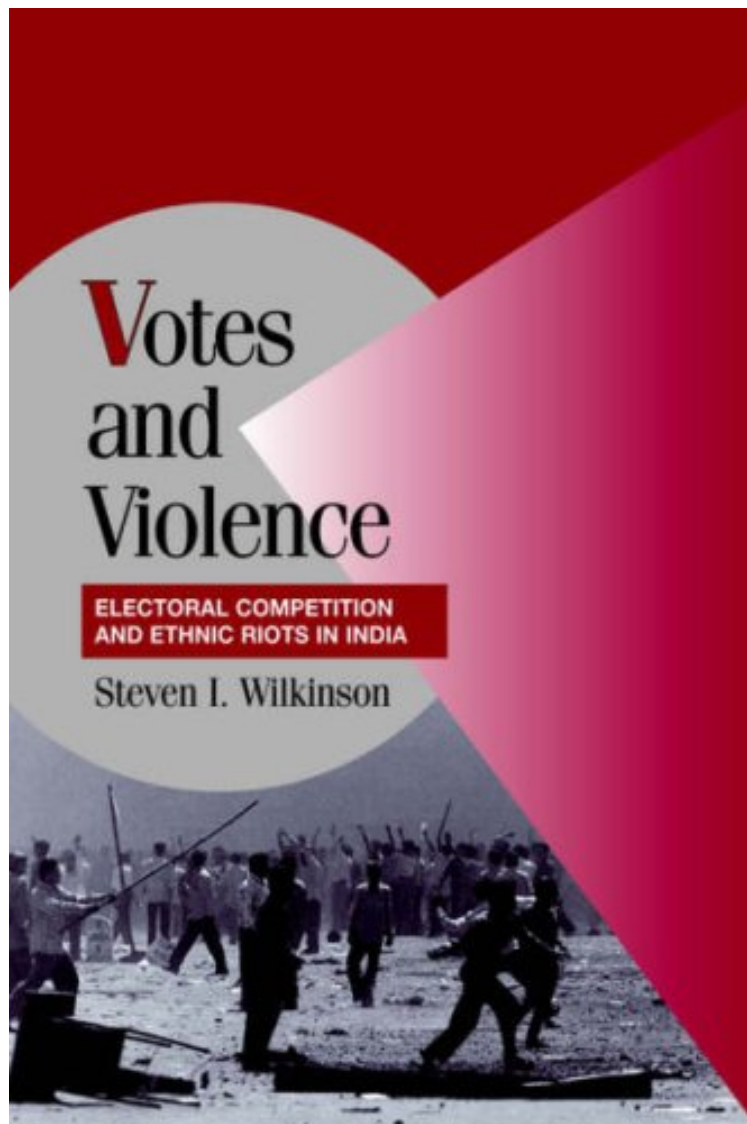


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Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India (Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics)

Steven I. Wilkinson

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Politics):

Revealing why Hindu-Muslim riots in India break out when and where they do, Steven Wilkinson demonstrates why some state governments in India prevent Hindu-Muslim riots while others do not or even help to incite violence. Wilkinson asserts that riots are manipulated to help win elections, and that state governments decide whether to stop them--depending on electoral calculations concerning the loss or gain of votes. He tests this claim using a dataset on riots and their causes as well as case studies of several Indian states.

"Wilkinson's sophisticated methodological approach to the study of ethnic violence...has enhanced understanding of ethnic violence. The book will be of great interest to decision makers, comparative politics researchers, and area specialists. Highly recommended." S.A. Kochanek, emeritus, Pennsylvania State University, University Park Campus, CHOICE"Steven Wilkinson's ambitious new volume makes an important contribution by precisely specifying the conditions under which democratic competition will transform ethnic differences into violent conflict and those under which it will peacefully accommodate them. It is arguably the best book written on the causes of Hindu-Muslim violence in India. Its broader contribution to the literature of ethnic conflict makes it essential reading for anyone interested in this issue." Political Science Quarterly, John Echeverri-Gent, University of VirginiaAbout the AuthorSteven I. Wilkinson is Nilekani Professor of India and South Asia and Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at Yale University. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India* was co-winner of the American Political Science Association's 2005 Woodrow Wilson Foundation prize. He is currently researching the links between colonial inheritances and post-independence levels of democracy, governance and conflict.