



Bollywood's India: A Public Fantasy

Priya Joshi

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Bollywood is India's most popular entertainment and one of its most powerful social forces. Its blockbusters contest ideas about state formation, capture the nation's dispersed anxieties, and fabricate public fantasies of what constitutes "India." Written by an award-winning scholar of popular culture and postcolonial modernity, *Bollywood's India* analyzes the role of the cinema's most popular blockbusters in making, unmaking, and remaking modern India.

With dazzling interpretive virtuosity, Priya Joshi provides an interdisciplinary account of popular cinema as a space that filters politics and modernity for its viewers. Themes such as crime and punishment, family and individuality, vigilante and community capture the diffuse aspirations of an evolving nation. Summoning India's tumultuous 1970s as an interpretive lens, Joshi reveals the cinema's social work across decades that saw the decline of studios, the rise of the multi-starrer genre, and the arrival of corporate capital and new media platforms. In elegantly crafted studies of iconic and less familiar films, including *Awara* (1951), *Ab Dilli Dur Nahin* (1957), *Deewaar* (1975), *Sholay* (1975), *Dil Se* (1998), *A Wednesday* (2008), and *3 Idiots* (2009), Joshi powerfully conveys the pleasures and politics of Bollywood blockbusters.

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