Traditionally, the Hindu nationalist movement has paid less attention to the state, seen as an artificial apparatus, than to society, the substance of India — which had to be reformed and transformed into a proper Hindu Rashtra (Hindu nation). As a result, the Sangh Parivar has prioritized social work via a myriad of front organizations, including unions and vigilante groups. For decades, these groups, have been at the forefront of anti-minority activities ranging from fights against “love jihad” to reconversions to Hinduism. They resort to psychological pressure, intimidation and violence in order to impose their world view in the streets — or on campuses. In BJP-ruled states they often work in tandem with the police, suggesting that they not only embody a parallel state, but are also connected to officials and form, therefore, a deeper state.

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Hindu vigilantism and the making of a parallel state — or a deeper state?

Dr. Christophe Jaffrelot

September 12, 2022
4:30-6:00 pm
Louis A. Simpson International Building Room A71
All are welcome.

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