



## The RSS: Evolution of India's Leading Hindu Nationalist Organization

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The Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) and its 100 affiliated organizations over the past twenty-five years have come to assert significant influence in India. These affiliates have penetrated virtually all areas of Indian society in fields as varied as labor, politics, the press, education, and the Hindu ecclesiastical establishment. Its political affiliate, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is India's ruling party, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a former full-time RSS worker. Professor Andersen's forthcoming book on the subject, *The RSS: A View to the Inside* (Viking Press, 2019), is something of a sequel to his earlier book, *The Brotherhood in Saffron* (Westview Special Studies on South and Southeast Asia, 1987). In this lecture, Professor Andersen will address three basic questions about the RSS that are analyzed in nine case studies in the new book: 1) Why has the RSS and its affiliates expanded so rapidly over the past twenty-five years? 2) How have these organizations evolved to reflect their much more diverse membership? 3) What factors drove the RSS' increased political involvement and how does the RSS' evolution impact the country's politics and policy, including the prospects for secularism and democracy?

**12:00 - 1:30 PM | LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED**

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