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978-1-107-06544-4 - Communal Violence, Forced Migration and the State: Gujarat Since 2002

Sanjeevini Badigar Lokhande

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Selected Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations</i>	<i>ix</i>
Introduction	1
1. Demography and Population Movements in Gujarat	21
2. Vatani to Visthapit Violence and Displacement in 2002	55
3. Relief Instead of Rights The Governance of Communal Violence	91
4. Reconstruction and Rights through Self Help	130
5. Violence and Good Governance	158
<i>Bibliography</i>	187
<i>Index</i>	209

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[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

This book has been the result of almost nine years of research that began with a thesis at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). It was also substantially written and shaped alongside my work in different capacities at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and London School of Economics project on ‘Governance and the Governed’ and the University of Mumbai. Before acknowledging my grateful thanks to people in various institutions, I must begin with people I met in Gujarat, where things first began to come together for the book.

Ayesha Khan, then a journalist with *Indian Express* in Ahmedabad who covered the violence in 2002 herself asked me if I had ever been in a riot. She went on to explain, ‘that’s why you don’t understand. See in a riot if something is happening somewhere, you can run and go into some other lane and somehow escape, but in 2002 it was not like that.’ My research initially occurred in the milieu of widespread national and international interest that the violence in 2002 generated at least for the first ten years before being popularly dismissed as the ‘past’ that panacea alleged to heal all wounds. Although it did not occur to me at the time of the interview, I had in fact in the past been in close proximity to the site of violence in two instances of riots during 1992–93 post Babri masjid riots and the riot after the Ramabai incident in Mumbai. With the exception of making me apprehensive about my safety for a few hours, my brief experience with riots had not otherwise affected my life in a major way. The displacement of Muslim families in the aftermath of the violence of 2002 therefore raised several questions including one that is central to this book, namely if displacement due to communal violence is in fact an aberration in the life of a citizen as it has been made out to be in the case of Gujarat or if it has larger implications.

My fieldwork in Gujarat from 2008 to 2009, on which this book is based, would not have been possible without the generosity and assistance of many people. I would particularly like to thank Achyut Yagnik for his in-depth understanding of Gujarat and his generosity in sharing it with others. I am grateful for conversations and suggestions and the people I met through him.

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Frontmatter

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Sanjeevini Badigar Lokhande

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

vii

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Selected Glossary of Terms

<i>Bandh</i>	strike
<i>Basti</i>	habitation
<i>Bigha</i>	a unit of measurement of land equivalent to 2843.5 square yards and 47/80th of an acre. (Shah 2002: 222)
<i>Chawl</i>	tenement-like structures of one room houses lined up with a common corridor.
<i>Colony</i>	a collection of houses in sites usually marked by a boundary wall
<i>Dandiya ras</i>	traditional group dance with sticks
<i>Dhamaal</i>	riot
<i>Galla</i>	stall
<i>Garba ras</i>	traditional group dance
<i>Hijrat</i>	exodus
<i>Ilakas</i>	areas
<i>Jamaat</i>	occupational, caste or doctrinal group among Muslims
<i>Josh</i>	zeal
<i>Kar sevak</i>	a volunteer working for the Ramjanmabhoomi movement for the building of a Ram temple over what is believed to be his birthplace over which a sixteenth century mosque now stands.
<i>Kuccha</i>	raw, in case of structures impermanent
<i>Lari</i>	hand cart
<i>Lathi</i>	long stick
<i>Madrasa</i>	a college for Islamic instruction
<i>Maidan</i>	field
<i>Masjid</i>	mosque

<i>Mohalla</i>	neighbourhood
<i>Mood vatan</i>	original place of residence/place that one belongs to
<i>Pir/Peerzada</i>	a saint who has both scriptural and mystical knowledge
<i>Potlis</i>	sac made by tying together the ends of a large piece of cloth
<i>Ram dhun</i>	chanting of prayers in particular to the deity Ram
<i>Rath yatra</i>	literally means journey by chariot that has religious connotations
<i>Rashtra</i>	nation
<i>Samadhan</i>	compromise
<i>Sarpanch</i>	the elected village chief who heads the village panchayat
<i>Shila daan</i>	brick donation
<i>Shuttle</i>	larger autorickshas that have a total of three rows of seats/ autorickshas that are shared by people going to different destinations along the same route are also called shuttle
<i>Talati</i>	village accountant
<i>Toofan</i>	storm, used to refer to a riot
<i>Vatani</i>	a resident/one who belongs to the place
<i>Visthapit</i>	displaced

Abbreviations

ABVP	Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad (All India Students Federation)
AVHRS	Antarik Visthapith Hak Rakshak Samitee (Committee for the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons)
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
CM	Chief Minister
GOG	Government of Gujarat
GR	Government Resolution
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
INC	Indian Nation Congress referred to elsewhere as the Congress Party

SELECTED GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

xi

IRMA	Institute of Rural Management Anand
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
NCM	National Commission for Human Rights
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
PM	Prime Minister
RTO	Regional Transport Office
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
SHRC	State Human Rights Commission
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission on Refugees
US	United States

District Map of Gujarat

