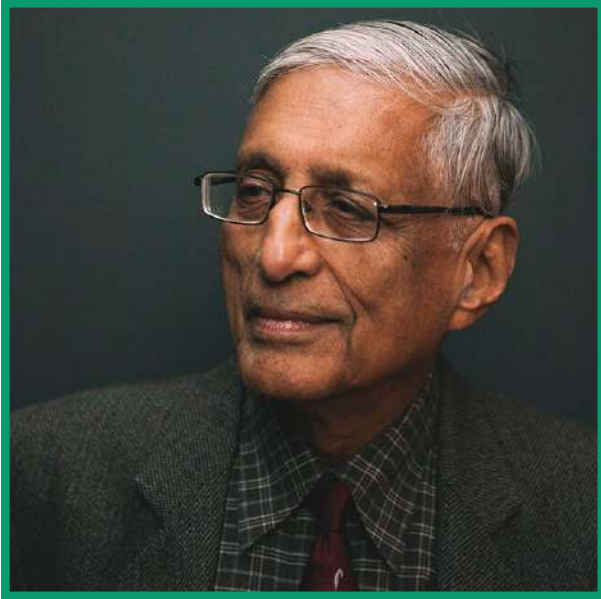


GLOBAL
SPEAKER
PROGRAM
SPECIAL LECTURE

ASIAN STUDIES CENTER



April 2024

12

3:00 - 4:30 PM (ET)

International Center
Room 115

Some thoughts on the future roles of (a) the nation of India, and (b) people of Indian origin

The Indian people now appear to think of the whole world as their home. In 2023, India's Ministry of External Affairs estimated that 32 million Indians were living outside India. Moreover, the number of Indians going to live abroad seems to rise by the year. According to the U.N., no other country possesses a larger diaspora (Mexico, Russia, and China follow India in diasporic strength). Simultaneously, India's role in the world's commerce is growing. India is currently the world's largest buyer of arms; in the IT sector, India is third in the world, after the U.S. and China; among countries exporting pharma products, India is already in the top ten and rising. Culturally, India's music, food, and yoga are gaining further ground. Politically, there is wider acceptance of India's claim to a permanent seat in the U.N. Security Council. However, the world in which India and Indians are playing a more visible role seems to be getting more divided and perhaps less democratic than before. The future roles in this context of the nation of India and of people of Indian origin is what the talk will explore.

Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, author of more than fifteen books, is a historian and biographer involved in efforts for trust-building and reconciliation. Professor Gandhi's latest book, published in 2024 by Speaking Tiger, is Fraternity: Constitutional Norm and Human Need. Professor Gandhi taught history and politics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign almost continuously from 1997 to 2022. He has also taught at IIT-Bombay, IIT-Gandhinagar, and Michigan State University. From 1990 to 1992, Professor Gandhi was a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament. Earlier in 1990, he led the Indian delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Associated from 1956 with Initiatives of Change (formerly known as Moral Re-Armament), Professor Gandhi served as president of Initiatives of Change International in 2009 and 2010. Through writing, speaking, public interventions and dialogues he has been engaged for sixty years in efforts for reconciliation and democratic rights.

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