



Come to Sacramento to Oppose Hindutva's Attempt to Hijack California History Textbooks

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 10AM

at the

**History-Social Science Committee Meeting
California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Room 1101
Sacramento, California**

CALIFORNIA TEXTBOOK CONTROVERSY: The Story So Far

* April 2005: Proposed new history /social science textbooks for Grade VI were released for review and public comment. These books include sections on Ancient India.

* Sept 2005: Two Hindu fundamentalist groups—Hindu Education Foundation and Vedic Foundation—both linked to the RSS/ VHP in India, push for changes in the texts that reflect their supremacist and chauvinistic political agendas, seeking to equate the history of India with the history of Hinduism, and the living, diverse religion of Hinduism with a Brahmanical, Vedic religion frozen in time for thousands of years.

* Dec 2, 2005: The Curriculum Commission, an advisory body to the California State Board of Education, accepts many of the problematic changes advocated by the HEF and VF. The only opposition that the HEF/VF faces is a last minute initiative by some Indologists and a faculty letter from over 130 South Asian Studies experts and South Asian professors. However, intense lobbying by the Hindutva groups, including a huge turnout at the public meeting of the Curriculum Commission, wins this round.

* Dec 2005: Many community groups and academics from the US and from India write to the Board urging it to reject the recommendations of the Curriculum Commission, which it is legally empowered to do, and argue that the changes are historically inaccurate and sectarian in ideology.

* Jan 12, 2006: The Board announces the appointment of a sub-committee to investigate whether the Curriculum Commission followed its directives in making the recommendations, and to re-consider the edits.

* **FEB 27th, 2006: THE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETS TO CONSIDER THE EDITS AGAIN!**

If you can't make it to the meeting, please try to send written comments! Fax them to the State Board of Education, 1430 N St., Ste. 5111, Sacramento, CA 95814 (fax: 916-319-0175)

For more detailed information, check out the following websites:

* Feb 27 meeting details are available at the State Board of Education's website:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/science022706.asp>

* Friends of South Asia's Textbook page has background information on the controversy:
<http://www.friendsofsouthasia.org/textbook/>

If you would like to come for the Feb 27th meeting, please email mail@friendsofsouthasia.org or call 408-480-5805

**MAKE YOUR VIEWS HEARD!
Tell the State Board that you don't want Hindu sectarian groups
writing Californian textbooks!**