



ZMO-Kolloquium Summer 2011

Thursday, April 28th, 2011, 6 p.m.

Leaving India to Anarchy: Gandhi on the Virtues of Civil War

Lecture by Dr. Faisal Devji

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

The war and violence that dominated both Indian and international politics in the 1940s forced Gandhi to think about the possibilities of nonviolence in new ways. Starting with the Quit India Movement in 1942 and ending with the India-Pakistan War in 1948, the Mahatma came to see violence itself as providing resources for its opposite. Faced with certain conditions of great violence, then, Gandhi chose to recommend civil war as a more hopeful source of nonviolence than law and order at any cost. This paper will examine the Mahatma's argument about the virtues of civil war.

Dr. Faisal Devji is Reader in Indian History at the University of Oxford. He is the author of *Landscapes of the Jihad* (2005), *The Terrorist in Search of Humanity* (2008), and a forthcoming book, *The Impossible Indian: Gandhi and the Temptation of Violence*. Faisal Devji received his PhD in Intellectual History from the University of Chicago, was Junior Fellow at the Society of Fellows, Harvard University, and has held visiting positions at Chicago and Yale. Most recently he was Associate Professor of History at The New School in New York City. Devji was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna, and is an Institute of Public Knowledge Scholar at New York University. He sits on the editorial board of the journals *Modern Intellectual History* and *Humanity*."

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