

A Voice for Public Memory: A Comparison Between the Memorial Practices in India and the United States of America to Propose a Suitable Response to the 26/11.

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A Voice for Public Memory: A Comparison Between the Memorial Practices in India and the United States of America to Propose a Suitable Response to the 26/11 Attacks in Mumbai

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Abstract

This thesis compares the memorial culture and practices in India and the United States. Based on the observation that memorial construction is not a new phenomenon in India, the thesis first studies the memorial history of India to establish a rich tradition of memorialization. Through the research of traditional Indian memorialization, their commissioners and the role of memorials, the thesis draws inferences on why memorialization is not current in India. The thesis further compares these inferences to the history of memorials in America to conclude on the differences in the two countries. This thesis is to draw on best practices from the two countries to evaluate terrorism memorials in India. For this purpose, this thesis evaluates the 9/11 attacks in New York and the memorial process of the 9/11 attacks as a precedent from the United States. This evaluation is compared to the memorialization of the November 2008 attacks in Mumbai, a city that severely lacks comprehensive memorialization. The thesis also compares the Gas Tragedy (a major industrial disaster) memorial process as a case study that conducted a nation competition for the memorial design and public engagement. Finally the thesis proposes suitable paths for the development of memorials in India that aim to be popular symbols of strength.

Keywords

memorials, 9/11 memorial, 26/11 Mumbai attacks, history of contemporary memorials

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