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## Editors' Introduction

The essays in this collection represent diverse views with a common theme expressed in its title, Re-thinking India: perceptions from Australia. The collection continues a tradition in the contribution to the literature on India from Australia in that its contributors are Australians, Anglo-Australians, Indian Australians, Indian students undertaking advanced studies in Australia and domiciled there—at least for their period of scholarship—as well as Indian scholars working in India, with links into Australian institutions, a welcome innovation.

From the 1960s academics in Australia have had a wide range of interests in India and the subcontinent. This has been well documented in a snapshot of academic engagement in this period, and has continued into the present day. That interest has developed—in line with India's rapid growth towards major power status—to include an increasing concern with India's foreign relations, and especially those with Australia.

Many of the chapters in this collection were first given as papers at the conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia held at the University of Western Sydney in July 2012. Other scholars generously contributed papers on their current research. The varied fields of endeavor thereby brought together in this book might well have been mapped for us by Nobel Prize winner, Amartya Sen, who describes his country as 'immensely diverse', with 'disparate convictions' and 'divergent customs.' The reader of this book will find that while its chapters range widely they all attempt to maintain a concern with what is important in India today: from foreign policy to theological understanding.

### Part 1: India and the World

With different approaches—'divergent', 'to borrow from Sen—Auriol Weigold and Christopher Kremmer examine the relationship between Australia and India acknowledging that such relationships are a two-way proposition. Weigold examines