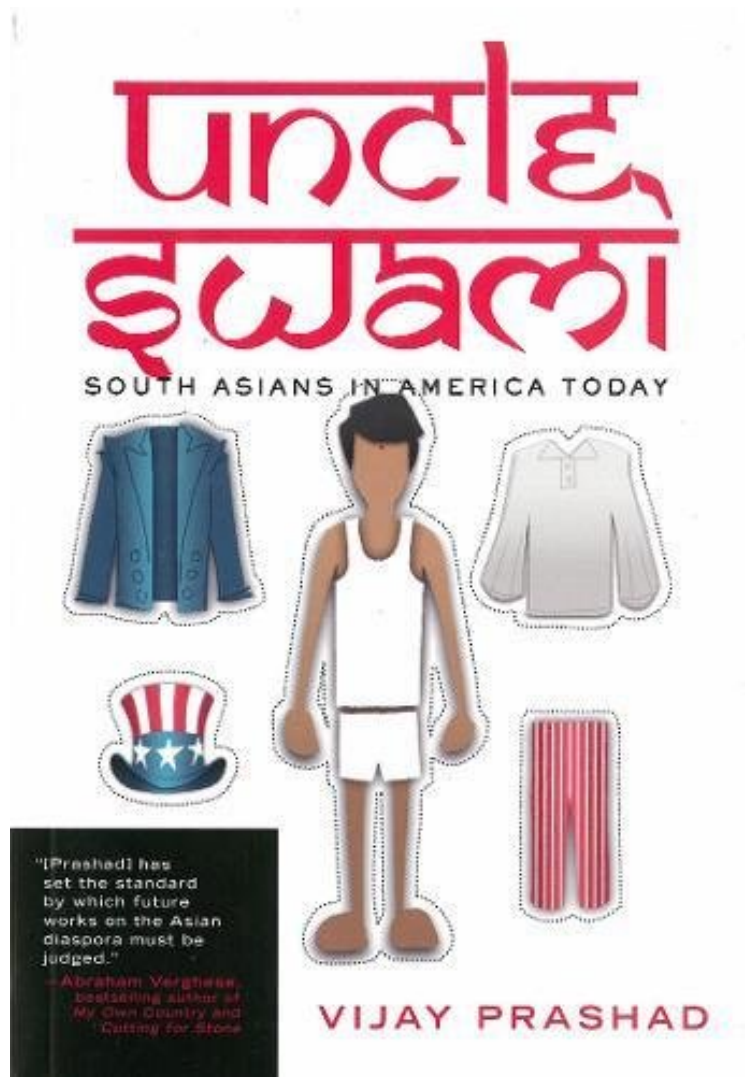


## Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today

Vijay Prashad

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**Vijay Prashad : Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today:

9 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expectedBy Karen ZiminskiI expected it to be about South Asians assimilating or not assimilating, as the case may be, in America. As a family therapist who treats many South Asians, I was looking for insight into how the immigrant experience affects family life. That isn't the subject of the book.The author goes into how some South Asian immigrants have moved to the US and become very wealthy, while others are exploited and kept down.He writes about various South Asian political movements, and he seems to have a strong preference for Communism. I am not a Communist, but I have to admit he has some good insights. He

says: "Military force has become an even more necessary component of statecraft as the United States sees its manufacturing wither and its society become addicted to credit and cheap goods from elsewhere." This is, I believe, why the United States keeps getting involved in overseas conflicts that are really not its concern. 12 of 17 people found the following review helpful. A must read. By Sonia Kotecha I appreciate how Dr. Vijay Prashad chronicles my history as a second generation South Asian American in a social/political/economic context. He speaks to my soul, validates my worldview and inspires me to think about social justice in new ways.

Within hours of the attacks on the World Trade Center, misdirected assaults on Sikhs and other South Asians flared in communities across the nation, serving as harbingers of a more suspicious, less discerning, and increasingly fearful worldview that would drastically change ideas of belonging and acceptance in America. Weaving together distinct strands of recent South Asian immigration to the United States, Uncle Swami examines a diverse and dynamic people whose identities are all too often lumped together, glossed over, or simply misunderstood. Vijay Prashad confronts the experience of migration across an expanse of generations and class divisions, from the birth of political activism among second-generation immigrants and the meteoric rise of South Asian American politicians in Republican circles to migrant workers at the mercy of the vicissitudes of the American free market. Described as "eye-opening" (Kirkus Reviews), "bound to spark discussion" (Booklist), and "required reading for anyone who wants to understand race, assimilation, and patriotism (The Boston Globe), Uncle Swami restores a diasporic community to its full-fledged complexity beyond both model minorities and the specters of terrorism.

"A passionate book that situates 'Indian America' within its own diversified history and alliances in the United States, within the complex histories of national liberation and Hindu nationalism in India, as well as within the spectrum of struggles in the United States." Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University "Vijay Prashad is our own Frantz Fanon. His writing of protest is always tinged with the beauty of hope." Amitava Kumar, author of *Passport Photos* "With unflinching clarity and deep compassion, [Prashad] mines the post-9/11 landscape to locate the source of an emerging collective identity as the racial other." Rinku Sen, Applied Research Center, and publisher of *Colorlines* "This compelling and carefully researched account reveals not only the contradictions in America's treatment of its South Asian immigrants, but the contradictions of the great American project itself." Minal Hajratwala, author of *Leaving India*