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SCHOLARLY REFLECTIONS ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

BOOK DISCUSSION

VOICES OF DISSENT: AN ESSAY

by **ROMILA THAPAR**

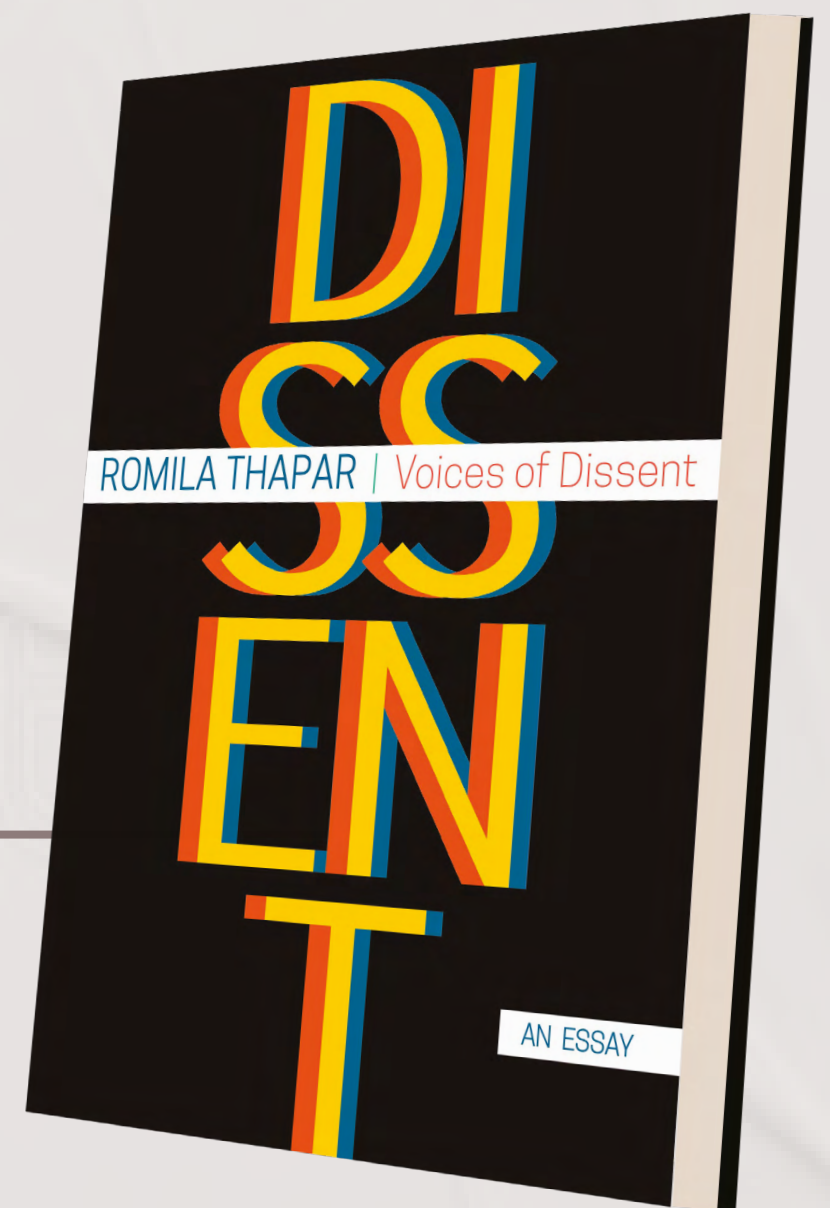
11 JANUARY 2022 | TUESDAY | 6.00 PM (IST)

Discussants

Dr. SIMONA SAWHNEY | Dr. JOHN THOMAS

PROFESSOR ROMILA THAPAR

will respond at the end of the presentations



About the Book: People have argued since time immemorial.

Disagreement is a part of life, of human experience. But we now live in times when any form of protest in India is marked as anti-Indian and met with arguments that the very concept of dissent was imported into India from the West. As Romila Thapar explores in her timely historical essay, however, dissent has a long history in the subcontinent, even if its forms have evolved through the centuries.

In *Voices of Dissent: An Essay*, Romila Thapar looks at the articulation of nonviolent dissent and relates it to various pivotal moments throughout India's history. Beginning with Vedic times, she takes us from the second to the first millennium BCE, to the emergence of groups that were jointly called the Shramanas--the Jainas, Buddhists, and Ajivikas. Going forward in time, she also explores the views of the Bhakti *sants* and others of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and brings us to a major moment of dissent that helped to establish a free and democratic India: Mahatma Gandhi's *satyagraha*. Then Romila Thapar places in context the recent peaceful protests against India's new, controversial citizenship law, maintaining that dissent in our time must be opposed to injustice and supportive of democratic rights so that society may change for the better.

For more details: www.kchr.ac.in/pages/172

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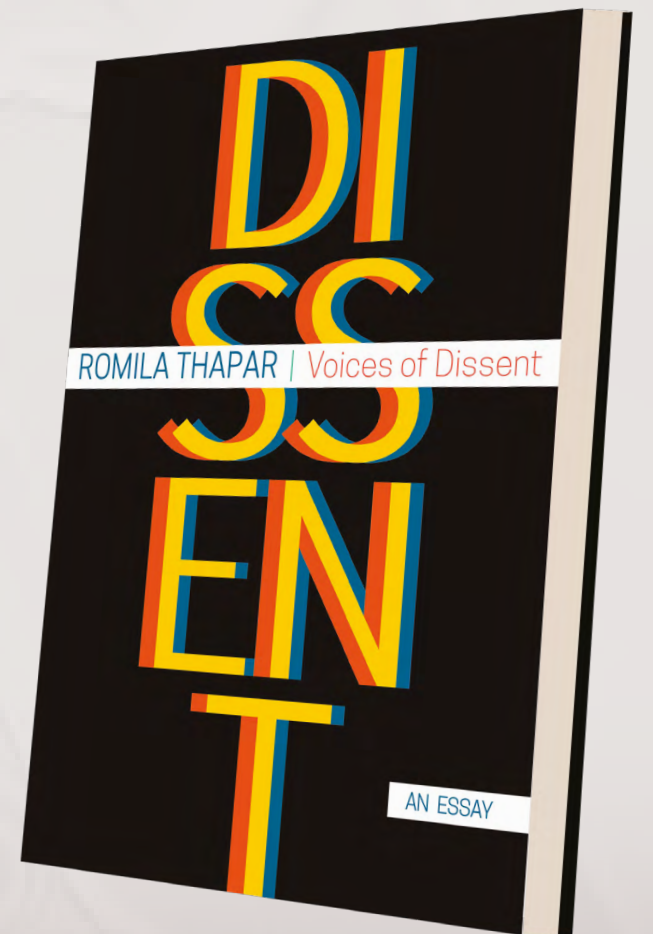


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Programme Schedule

Introductory Remarks & Welcome

6:00 - 6:05 pm

Professor G. Arunima
Director, KCHR

Discussants

Dr. Simona Sawhney

Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

6:05 - 6:30 pm

Dr. John Thomas

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati

6:30 - 6:55 pm

Author's Response

6:55 - 7:15 pm

Professor Romila Thapar

Former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Q & A session

7:15 - 7:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID : 568 895 2764

Passcode : KCHR

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