**Augustine Thottakara cmi, (ed.) Religion and Politics in Asia Today, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2001, pp. 320. Rs. 250.00; US$ 18.00. ISBN: 81-86861-33-5.**

This book analyses the relationship between religion and politics in Asia today from different angles and viewpoints. Religious traditions and political systems exert tremendous influence in the life and activities, outlooks and worldviews of the people. Religion primarily deals with the spiritual, transcendental and eschatological good of the humans, while politics takes care of the earthly well-being and organized societal life of the people. They should complement and enrich each other. The relationship between religions and politics in many Asian countries, however, has become murky, unhealthy and questionable. All the world religions are born in Asia. Their original charism and ideology are all tuned to the overall development of human persons and for their eschatological good in the life after death. But in many countries both these systems try to use each other to further vested interests and personal gains. Eminent scholars from different Asian countries critically analyse the volatile situation in Asia today.

This book contains the following essays:

'Religion and Politics in Ancient India: Kautilya'sArthasastra: Its Relevance Today' by Augustine Thottakara; 'Secularism and Hindu Worldview' by Swami Agnivestr, 'Israel and Jerusalem Then and Now: The Historical Dynamics and Challenges' by Asher Finkel; 'Biblical View of Religion and Politics' by Theotonius Gomes; 'Islam: Justice and Politics' by Chandra Muzaffar; 'Religion and Politics: The Sikh Perspective' by Shashi Bala; 'Politics and Salvation: The Case of China' by Maja Milcinski; 'Japanese or Universal:

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Politics: Interpretation of Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar' by Thomas

