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Father, Son And Holy War

Begun in 1987, this film is an enquiry into politics, religious violence and the crisis of male identity in contemporary India. In the last few years India has opened its doors to the world economy. amidst the atmosphere of the apparent new affluence hangs the threat of communal violence. A recurring image in *Father, Son, and Holy War* are the flickering flames of fires lit in communal riots. People pass by a body which has been burnt to a crisp. Hindu political leaders evoke imagery which speaks of re-establishing Hindu manhood by killing the enemies of the nation. Men describe how honoured they felt to have seen a woman commit "sati", be burnt alive on her husband's funeral pyre. Macho imagery is used again and again by those attempting to gain influence with a population which is disillusioned with mainstream politics. Hindus and Muslims march for communal harmony in the aftermath of riots, a woman speaker urges her sisters to join the fight against violence, a working class woman refuses to accept "sati" as a necessary practice. *Father, Son, and Holy War*, through a careful layering of images views and counter views takes you far beyond the generally superficial vision of Indian politics that the standard television documentary delivers. *Pervaiz Khan*

India 1994
Dir: Anand Patwardhan
Documentary
120 mins



London Film Festival '94