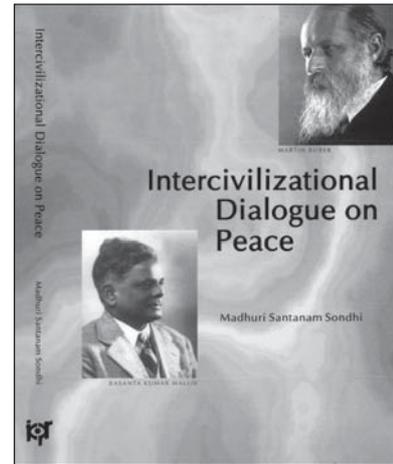


INTERCIVILIZATIONAL DIALOGUE ON PEACE

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Philosophers Martin Buber and Basanta Kumar Mallik lived and worked in the same decades of the twentieth century, the former in Germany and Israel, the latter in India and Britain. Their working lives extended from the European fin-de-siecle, through both world wars, to independence for their respective countries. Although they employed different philosophic perspectives, existentialist and metaphysical, their common thrust was towards a viable and practicable ethical position for modulating interpersonal and inter-societal relations. Since this entailed for them both a critical re-interpretation of their traditions in greater or lesser degree, this study has elements of comparative civilizational analysis, and since they anticipated the post-modern problematic of inter-human subjectivity, it also deals with culturalpluralism.

However, they shared a larger interest in socio-political affairs, particularly with regard to societal and international conflict, with which they grappled within the frameworks of their respective paradigms. Specifically, Buber sought for mutual understanding and cooperation between Zionists and Arabs in West Asia while Mallik concerned himself with the civilizational framework of Hindu-Muslim conflict in India.

Grounded in the urgent necessity of India and Israel to secure peace in the domestic and regional spheres, the comparative perspective aims to contribute towards peace theory for international existence and human survival.

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