

## ***An Other People': Muslims and Populist Politics in the Deccan***

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This paper will take Muslim political representation in the post- 1947 Deccan as a site for exploring the dialectical relationship between institutional politics and populist mobilization. Among the foremost charges against populist politics is the scapegoating of vulnerable groups as 'the other', and therefore the enemy of The People that is the subject of populist rhetoric. If populism names a fantasy of political community unmediated by institutional representation and based instead on a logic of embodied and thereby direct representation by a charismatic leader or party, it is worth noting that precisely these characteristics are usually attached to the political practices of minority groups and pathologized. More, it is when one looks at the dynamics of minority political representation that the inevitable entanglement of populism with institutional representative politics becomes visible. These are the connections I will explore in considering the career of the All Indian Majlis-e-Ittehad'ul Muslimin (AIMIM) of Hyderabad, which now represents the city of Hyderabad as well as Aurangabad (Maharashtra) in Parliament, in the post- Police Action (1948) period.