

## Invitation for a debate on the NCERT math texts you authored

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From: Prof. C. K. Raju (ckr@ckraju.net)

To: pksinclair@ignou.ac.in

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Dear Prof. Sinclair,

I heard that [corruption charges were made against you](#), concerning your tenure as Director of NCERT. No idea of what happened subsequently, or whether the enquiry is still on.

Anyway, the immediate issue is that of Euclid and the axiomatic math taught in current NCERT math texts (especially class IX) which you authored.

The first question is "what is the evidence for Euclid?" How should a teacher answer a child who raises that question?

The NCERT has no evidence. Hence, its math head Hukam Singh (in 2007) said ["why do you want evidence, we decide by committee"](#). But Narlikar, the head of the NCERT committee, stayed silent when asked for primary evidence for Euclid, since he too has no such primary evidence, but does not want to admit publicly his ignorance of this aspect of the school text he wrote/approved.

The other response from the NCERT (2019) was that [if students ask for evidence of Euclid, they should be told that this is what the West believed, and is stated in \(tertiary\) Western texts](#). Ask for primary evidence, and tertiary sources are cited! QED.

The implication is that Western beliefs, like those of the church, are sacrosanct and cannot be questioned or challenged by any Indians. That is the first lesson of colonial education: to teach blind acceptance of Western authority. The centuries of church hegemony over the West could easily have resulted in all sorts of Western superstitions; if these are further spread today by colonial/church education, Indians have no right to challenge them or ask for evidence. "Shut up and believe the West", eh?

It is one thing to resist "saffronization" or anything done without evidence, and quite another to oppose it by promoting Christianization, as the height of "scientific temper", by asserting that evidence is NOT needed for widely believed church myths like "Euclid".

I suppose you agree with that response. The math school of TIFR, from where you got a PhD, has been [renowned for its obsequiousness to the West/Whites](#).

Indeed, as regards "Euclid", you will recall your own response at the Indian Social Science Congress at the SNDT college in Mumbai, Dec 2007, [where you were present, when I presented a paper on "Goodbye Euclid!"](#). I pointed out that the image of Euclid in the then NCERT texts was a racist (Caucasian) stereotype. To that your flippant response was that "It is like all Sardarjis look alike". Your subsequent action was even more gross: you changed the image of Euclid in the school text, but kept it still Caucasian, though not a stereotype. The important point, in your thinking, is that the image of "Euclid" should be presented as Caucasian. 😊


Underlying this, it seems there is your unstated aim to indoctrinate Indian school children also into the racist belief in White supremacy. I say "indoctrinate" because, if you are a half-way decent academic, you ought to be well aware of [my "Euclid" challenge prize of Rs 2 lakhs](#). You should have answered it, but didn't. Why? Because you don't have the slightest primary evidence for "Euclid", and therefore neither you nor NCERT ever will provide it. Will just keep dodging, let the children suffer; you have the privilege, not any responsibility!

The first step of church propaganda is to denigrate ALL others (except early Greeks). And your desire to spread church propaganda is clear from the brazen lies you use in the NCERT text, to denigrate Indian ganita by saying (class IX text, chp. 5) that “only Greeks used reason” in math, and that (class IX, Appendix 1) “no one other than Greeks had a notion of proof in math”. [Indian ganita clearly had a well-stated and widely used notion of proof](#). That, of course, included the use of inference by reasoning. But given your aim to promote West/Whites you need to start by denigrating Indians, a prime aim of the colonizer.

The fact is that the moment you admit the existence of [an Indian notion of proof](#) (common to both Indian ganita and present-day science), you would be forced to explain why axiomatic proofs are superior, which you can't. Much easier to cultivate and rely on church and racist stereotypes that axiomatic proofs had a "superior" (White/Western) origin.

Setting aside the question of evidence for the *person* "Euclid", did you even read the book you wrote a chapter about? There is no definition of proof in it, **and there are no axiomatic proofs in the “Euclid” book**: and this fact (contrary to myth which long prevailed in the West) is publicly known for over a century. Considering you did axiomatic math all your life, it is strange you never investigated the church creation myth of its origin.

Actually, the "Euclid" myth masks the fact that [axiomatic proofs were first used in Crusading Christian theology, for which they were a critical political requirement](#).



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**The church origins of (axiomatic) math**

C K Raju

Axiomatic reasoning was invented by the Crusading church (not “Euclid”). Formal math adds a useless and ugly met...

Naturally, **if the myth of "Euclid" is destroyed, people will get to know about the church origins of axiomatic reasoning**. They might then rightly reject that useless and ugly metaphysical axiomatic math, which resurrects medieval theology. Hence, your desire to hang on to the "Euclid" myth without evidence. Else your lifework would lose all value.

Anyway, **the object of this email is to invite you to a public debate on the above issues** and some more, such as the false attribution of calculus to Newton in the class XI text (if you are confident of your knowledge of calculus, that is). The debate can be held even online at a mutually convenient time.

You will appreciate that as a former Director of NCERT and author of the impugned math texts, the buck stops with you. Even if you are no longer with the NCERT, the text continues unchanged, and has already poisoned the minds of millions of children, a disaster worse than Bhopal.

Once you agree to the debate, I will be happy to send a full list of topics.

Sincerely,

C. K. Raju

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