



OXFORD
INDIA SHORT
INTRODUCTIONS
2020-2021

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‘The Oxford India Short Introductions is a sterling idea. It provides an overview of aspects of India’s civilizational identity as well as its evolution and growth from a contemporary perspective, in a handy readable format.’

—Swashpawan Singh, former ambassador of India to the offices of the United Nations in Geneva

‘The series strikes me as especially relevant in a context where cross-disciplinary work is becoming the norm, and scholars, both young and established, are increasingly looking to extend their knowledge to new areas of study without having to commit a lot of time to the task.’

—Ira Raja, assistant professor, Department of English, University of Delhi, New Delhi

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—Pulapre Balakrishnan, professor of economics, Ashoka University, Haryana

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—Pratap Bhanu Mehta, vice-chancellor, Ashoka University, Haryana, on *Panchayati Raj*

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—Nandini Sundar, professor of sociology, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi, on *Citizenship in India*

‘Fluid and crystal clear. Its analytical acuity and elegance of drafting particularly distinguish it.’

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‘A timely and incisive analysis of Indian electoral politics.’

—Lord Meghnad Desai, emeritus professor, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, on *Coalition Politics in India*

‘Vaidyanathan observes the flowing arguments, fluid acrimonies and flurried negotiations to suggest wise solutions.’

—Gopalkrishna Gandhi, distinguished professor of history and politics, Ashoka University, Haryana, on *Water Resources of India*

‘Far and away the most stimulating introduction to the life of our Constitution.’

—Sunil Khilnani, professor of politics and director, Kings College London, UK, on *The Indian Constitution*



OXFORD INDIA SHORT INTRODUCTIONS

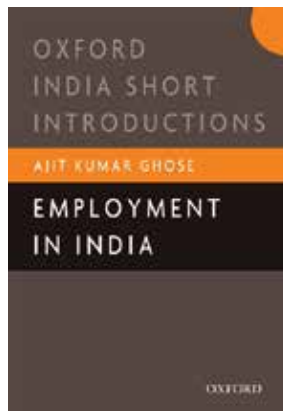
The Oxford India Short Introductions (OISIs) are accessible, concise, and stimulating introductions to different aspects of India on selected themes and issues from Indian society, economy, culture, polity, and contemporary history. The books are developed in line with the requirements and preferences of a wide spectrum of general audience seeking a reader-friendly, affordable, qualitatively superior, and exciting entry point to, and overview of, a topic of abiding interest about India. OISIs are written by experts who combine their understanding of the subject with facts and analyses to present topics in an accessible manner without compromising on quality. Informative and attractively priced and designed, these books would prove to be invaluable additions to any bookshelf.

Employment in India

Ajit K. Ghose

Over the last two decades, a fascinating growth story has unfolded in India. Yet, the improvement in material conditions for the country's vast majority has not kept pace with that growth. This is mainly because India is still grappling with poor employment conditions and widespread unemployment. However, there is not much clarity on the exact nature of this problem and the steps required to tackle it. This short introduction addresses this lack of information. Reviewing the evolution of employment conditions in India since Independence, this volume underscores the linkages between it and economic growth and development.

Ajit K. Ghose received his PhD in economics from the University of Cambridge, UK. He was a senior economist at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva, Switzerland.



9780190120979

₹320 • 224pp

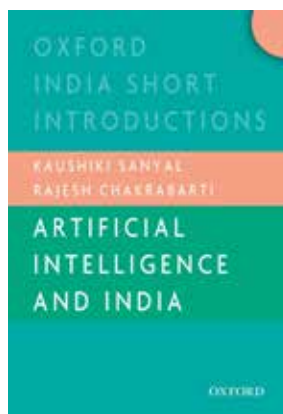
Paperback • 2012

Artificial Intelligence and India

Rajesh Chakrabarty and Kaushiki Sanyal

This book provides a window into the field of AI with a focus on where India stands. The purpose is to give an overview of the AI ecosystem vis a vis India, a round-up of the key debates around ethical and regulatory issues, the regulatory models that India can adopt for AI and give a flavour of the opportunities and risks associated with the technological advances that AI would set in motion in diverse fields.

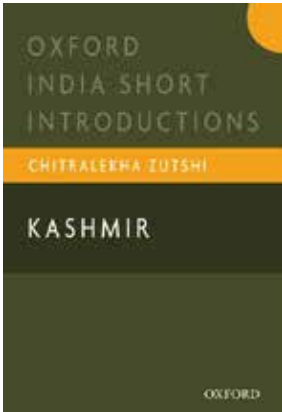
Rajesh Chakrabarty is Professor, Jindal Global Business School, Sonapat, India and **Kaushiki Sanyal** is with Sunay Policy Advisory, Gurgaon, India.



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₹345 • 176pp

Paperback • 2020



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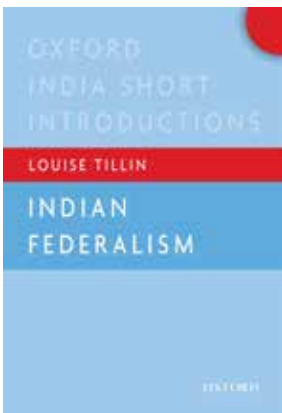
Paperback • 2019

Kashmir

Chitralkha Zutshi

There has been a crying need for a brief history of Kashmir that also deals with its complex political situation. This book provides just that and the answers to every question that has ever been raised about Kashmir, in brief. It introduces Kashmir as an idea and a place to general readers. It untangles a nuanced and complex topic to help readers understand not just Kashmir's past, present, and future, but also the sources of the existing misconceptions about it. It explores how Kashmir assumed a special place in our imaginations.

Chitralkha Zutshi is James Pinckney Harrison Professor of History, at the College of William and Mary, Virginia, USA. She is the author of *Kashmir's Contested Pasts: Narratives, Sacred Geographies, and the Historical Imagination* (OUP, 2014).



9780199495610

₹345 • 168 pp

Paperback • 2019

Indian Federalism

Louise Tillin

To understand how politics, the economy, and public policy function in the world's largest democracy, an appreciation of federalism is essential. Bringing to surface the complex dimensions that affect relations between India's central government and states, this short introduction is the one-stop account to federalism in India.

Paying attention to the constitutional, political, and economic factors that shape Centre–state relations, this book stimulates understanding of some of the big dilemmas facing India today.

Louise Tillin is reader in politics at King's India Institute, King's College, London, UK.

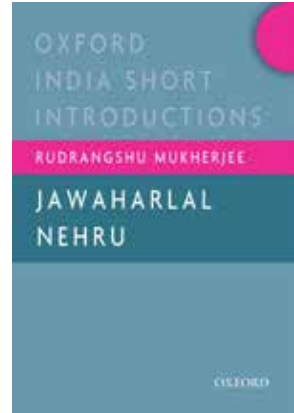
Jawaharlal Nehru

Rudrangshu Mukherjee

Even after 70 years of Independence, Jawaharlal Nehru is still an overarching presence in India's collective memory.

This short introduction to Nehru traces his personal–political journey from being a rich, Westernized young man to a radical leader of the Indian National Congress. Mukherjee provides a glimpse of his relationship with Gandhi—fraught with major ideological differences but steeped in mutual love and respect. Detailing the principles he stood by, the volume examines his role in the birth of a fledgling nation as well as his contribution as the first prime minister of the country.

Rudrangshu Mukherjee is chancellor and professor of history, Ashoka University, Haryana, India.



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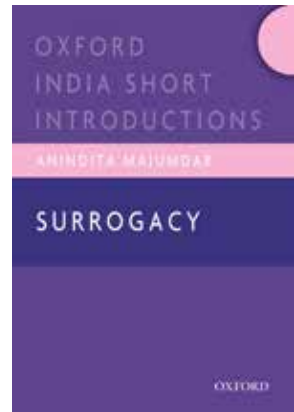
Paperback • 2019

Surrogacy

Anindita Majumdar

Although estimated as a multi-billion dollar industry, surrogacy has still not found prominence in legislation in India, neither does it feature in the nation's public discourse. This short introduction explores how surrogacy is practiced and understood in India and across the world. It focuses on the relationship between surrogacy and issues of reproduction, kinship, women's bodies, assisted reproductive technologies, and transnational reproductive tourism. In exploring the differences between various forms of surrogacy the book seeks to move beyond these opposing dualities and begin a dialogue regarding the practice.

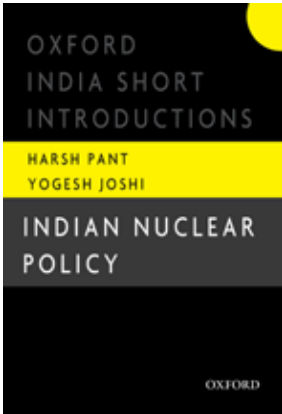
Anindita Majumdar teaches sociology at Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad.



9780199492794

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Paperback • 2019



9780199489022

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Paperback • 2018

Indian Nuclear Policy

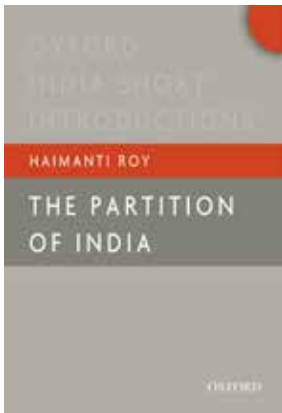
Harsh V. Pant & Yogesh Joshi

This short introduction provides a clear and succinct account of the evolution of Indian nuclear policy over seven decades since Independence. Situating India's nuclear behaviour in its quest for global status, demands of national security, vagaries of domestic politics, and the idiosyncrasies of the individuals who led its nuclear programme, it explains how India's engagement with the atom is unique in international nuclear history and politics.

The five chapters follow a linear historical narrative explaining how India's nuclear pioneers established the nuclear programme after independence; India's development of a 'nuclear weapons option' after the Chinese nuclear test of 1964; its nuclear refrain after the 1974 PNE; its pathways to nuclearisation in the decade of 1980s and 1990s; and finally its rise as a nuclear weapons power after the 1998 nuclear test.

Harsh V. Pant is distinguished fellow and head of strategic studies at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi.

Yogesh Joshi is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University, USA.



9780199488698

₹325 • 208pp

Paperback • 2018

The Partition of India

Haimanti Roy

This short introduction provides a comprehensive account of the causes, experience, and aftermath of the Partition of India and its legacies in the South Asian subcontinent. The author highlights three aspects of the Partition: it was not a pre-destined 'clash of civilizations' between Hindus and Muslims; it was a long-drawn-out process spanning beyond a decade rather than being confined to the year 1947; and third, there is no single template to understand the experiences of dislocation, rehabilitation, migration, and violence in Bengal and Punjab. The book brings together the contextual histories of causality, of violence and loss, and of nation-making and introduces its readers to major scholarly debates in a brief but succinct manner.

Haimanti Roy teaches history at the University of Dayton, USA.

Party System in India

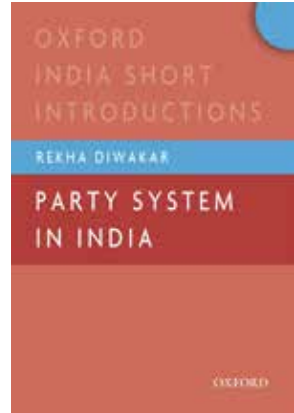
Rekha Diwakar

This short introduction provides an analysis of the Indian party system through its various phases—from the dominance of the Congress party, to the emergence of regional parties and coalition politics, and more recently, a move towards a BJP-centred party system. It argues that the Indian party system continues to be shaped by a complex interaction of sociological, institutional, and contextual factors.

Rekha Diwakar is lecturer in politics at the University of Sussex, UK, and research associate at the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.

'This is a marvellously concise yet comprehensive book demonstrating deep understanding of the Indian party system and utilizing the modern tools of political science by which to analyse it: a triumph for its author.'

—Keith Dowding, professor of Political Science, Australian National University.



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Paperback • 2017

Indian Democracy

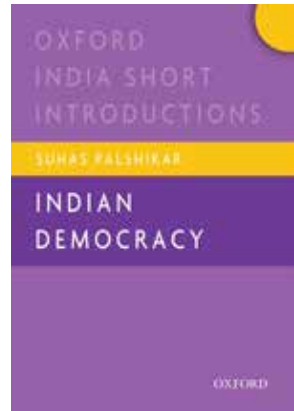
Suhas Palshikar

Indian Democracy embarks on a journey through a tour of key issues of contestations and mobilization that have occupied the terrain of democratic politics in India. While taking a long-term view of democracy, the book is alive to the more contemporary challenges as well. Warning against tendencies of becoming majoritarian, the book points to contemporary challenges of democracy's distortions and weakening of diversity.

Suhas Palshikar has taught political science at Savitribai Phule Pune University, India. He is also the chief editor of the journal *Studies in Indian Politics*.

'Palshikar has used his expertise in presenting to us the rich content which looks both conceptually complex as well as empirically close to our everyday sense of democracy.'

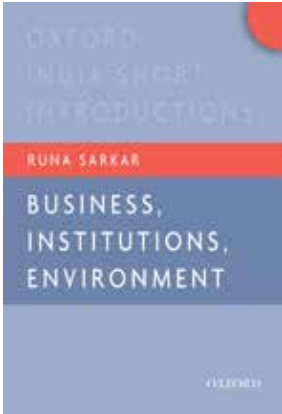
—Gopal Guru, professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.



9780199479603

₹345 • 212pp

Paperback • 2017



Business, Institutions, Environment

Runa Sarkar

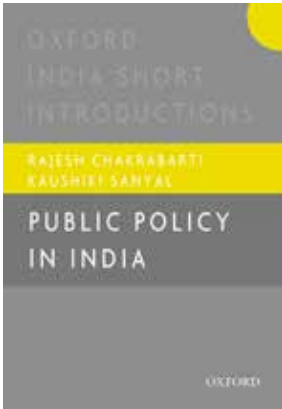
This short introduction explores different facets of corporate environmental strategy in India, analysing the behaviour of large as well as small Indian firms in the ecological and social context. Mapping the evolution of environmental regulatory framework in India, it looks at the various challenges faced by firms in India and how they have overcome it, sometimes turning them into opportunities.

Runa Sarkar is a professor in the Economics Group at Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata.

9780198075448

₹295 • 200pp

Paperback • 2017



Public Policy in India

Rajesh Chakrabarti & Kaushiki Sanyal

Tracing the evolution of the policymaking process in India, with relevant examples and case studies, this volume provides a concise and lucid overview of how policies develop, how they are implemented, the techniques of evaluation, and the challenges in governance that the country faces. It demonstrates that formulating, implementing, and evaluating public policy is a cyclical process as changing times keep throwing up new choices and challenges.

Rajesh Chakrabarti is co-founder, Sunay Policy Advisory Pvt. Ltd, a policy research and consulting start-up based in Gurgaon, India.

Kaushiki Sanyal is co-founder and CEO, Sunay Policy Advisory Pvt. Ltd.

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Paperback • 2016

'An easy to read and accessible book that succinctly articulates a multi-disciplinary and distinctive field as public policy in India.'

—Baijayant 'Jay' Panda, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Kendrapara, Odisha, India.

The Indian Middle Class

Surinder S. Jodhka & Aseem Prakash

Who exactly are the middle classes in India? What role do they play in contemporary Indian politics and society, and what are their historical and cultural moorings? The authors of this volume argue that the middle class has largely been understood as an 'income/ economic category', but the term has a broader social and conceptual history, globally as well as in India. It is this conceptual and social history of the Indian middle class that the book analytically elaborates.

Surinder S. Jodhka is professor, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and senior affiliate fellow at the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, New Delhi, India.

Aseem Prakash is professor and chairperson, School of Public Policy and Governance, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, India.

'A remarkably comprehensive analysis of the making of the Indian middle class and its diversity.'

—**Christophe Jaffrelot**, *director, Centre d'études et de recherches internationales, Institut d'études politiques de Paris.*

Bollywood

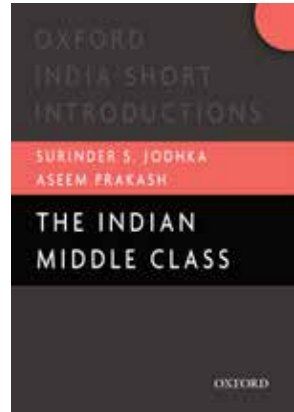
M.K. Raghavendra

This short introduction offers a comprehensive overview of popular Hindi cinema, commonly called 'Bollywood'. This is a focused study that will help the reader understand Hindi cinema's historical role and its aesthetics or grammar. The author gives an account of the production and distribution practices in India, briefly touching upon the economics of film production, and traces the changes in Hindi cinema after it became a global brand.

M.K. Raghavendra is an eminent film critic, researcher, and scholar. He received the Swarna Kamal for the Best Film Critic at the 1997 National Film Awards.

'A comprehensive and thorough peep into Bollywood, this book is a keeper for any Bollywood buff and a great primer for the uninitiated.'

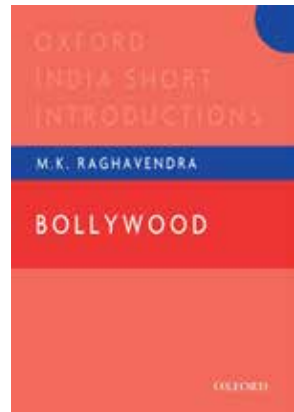
—**Namrata Joshi**, *cinema editor/associate editor and film critic with the Hindu.*



9780199466795

₹345 • 256pp

Paperback • 2016



9780199469338

₹275 • 190pp

Paperback • 2016



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Labour in Contemporary India

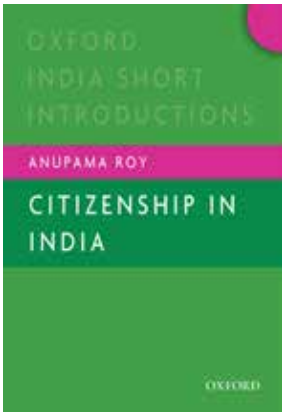
Praveen Jha

Generation of opportunities for decent work and livelihood ought to be among the most important policy objectives on any meaningful agenda of economic development. On this front, the Indian experience has remained seriously inadequate. This book examines some of the major themes relating to the world of work and workers in contemporary India while locating it in the larger trajectory of economic development since India's independence.

Praveen Jha is professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

‘This book provides a valuable introduction to key aspects of the labour question in contemporary India.’

—**Gerry Rodgers**, former director, International Institute for Labour Studies, Geneva.



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Paperback • 2016

Citizenship in India

Anupama Roy

This short introduction lucidly describes the history of citizenship in India, before moving on to the pluralities and the contemporary landscapes of citizenship. It traces the amendments in the Citizenship Act, 1955 and argues that the legal enframing of the citizen involves a simultaneous production of its other—the non-citizen. This book looks at the multiple margins that constitute the sites of constant churning, releasing powerful new idioms, imaginaries, and practices of citizenship.

Anupama Roy is professor of Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

International Trade and India

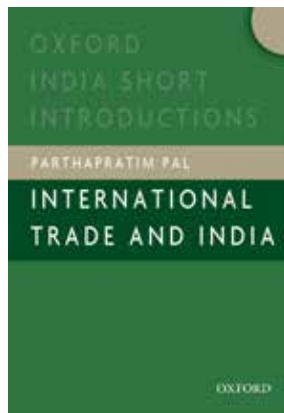
Parthapratim Pal

This study maps India's engagement with global commerce in the years before and after Independence and analyses how India, once a big trading nation, was transformed into a country which largely exhibited characteristics of a low-income developing country. Tracing the journey from the cautious approach following Independence, to its warming up to globalization since the mid-1980s, and economic liberalization in 1991, this lucid account of India's relationship with international trade will equally appeal to academics, policymakers, and general readers.

Parthapratim Pal teaches economics at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata.

'[E]ssential reading for those wishing to understand how the Indian economy has evolved.'

—**Jayati Ghosh**, professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



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₹295 • 268pp

Paperback • 2014

The Indian Constitution

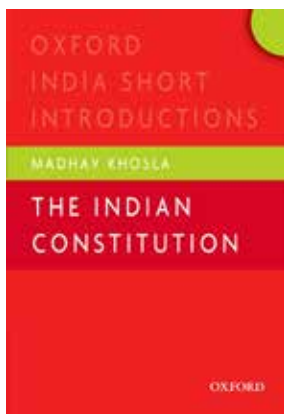
Madhav Khosla

The Indian Constitution is one of the world's great political texts. In this short introduction, Madhav Khosla brings to light its many features, aspirations, and controversies. How does the Constitution separate power between different political actors? What form of citizenship does it embrace? And how can it change? In answering questions such as these, Khosla unravels the document's remarkable and challenging journey, inviting readers to reflect upon the theory and practice of constitutionalism in the world's largest democracy.

Madhav Khosla studied law at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, and Yale University, USA. He is currently a PhD candidate in political theory at Harvard University, USA.

'Khosla's outstanding book is far and away the most stimulating introduction to the life of our Constitution ...'

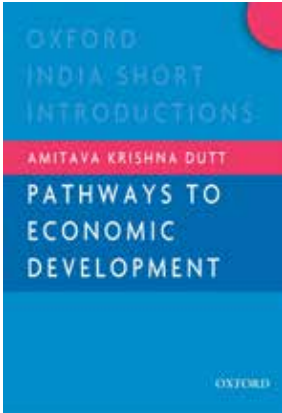
—**Sunil Khilnani**, author of *The Idea of India*.



9780198075387

₹295 • 216pp

Paperback • 2012



9780198075394
₹345 • 224pp
Paperback • 2014

Pathways to Economic Development

Amitava Krishna Dutt

This short introduction combines theoretical analysis and historical and contemporary experience to explore alternative paths to economic development. Distinguishing between growth of income and production, poverty and distributional issues, happiness, and human functioning and capabilities, this work examines India's performance on the pathways to development. Lucid and jargon-free, this book will interest academics, policymakers, and general readers alike.

Amitava Krishna Dutt is professor of economics and political science, Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame, USA.

'[Dutt] gives fair treatment to classic contributions to development thought as well as recent fashions and controversies.'

—**Lance Taylor**, Arnhold Professor of International Cooperation and Development, The New School for Social Research, New York, USA.



9780199451135
₹325 • 252pp
Paperback • 2014

Mughal Painting

Som Prakash Verma

Mughal school of painting remains one of the richest and most productive schools in the history of Indian and Islamic painting. This short introduction provides a detailed survey of paintings created in ateliers under the patronage of the Mughal emperors in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Showcasing works from renowned collections, this book highlights the aesthetic and intellectual facets of Mughal painting, and serves the purpose of a basic reference on the subject.

Som Prakash Verma is former professor of history, Aligarh Muslim University.

'The book explores the evolution of the Mughal paintings, which shifted from the typical Persian style to emerge as a distinct school of painting.'

—**Ranjeeta Dutta**, associate professor, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Coalition Politics in India

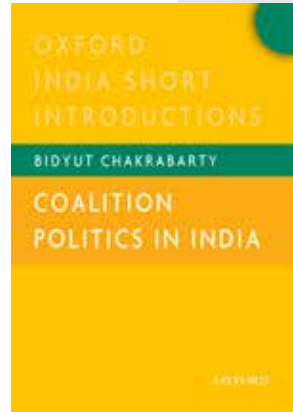
Bidyut Chakrabarty

This short introduction analyses the growth and evolution of coalition politics in India. It argues that contrary to popular explanations, coalitions have always been integral to Indian politics. Beginning with a historical study, it discusses how the 1967 state assembly elections radically altered India's political equations, since regional parties emerged as viable alternatives to single-party rule. The book examines successful experiments of coalition governments in India since 1999, with the coming to power of the BJP-led NDA.

Bidyut Chakrabarty teaches at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi.

'[T]his is a timely study by one of India's leading political scientists.'

—**Jagdish N. Bhagwati**, *professor, Economics Department, Columbia University, USA.*



9780198098577

₹295 • 248pp

Paperback • 2014

Political Economy of Reforms in India

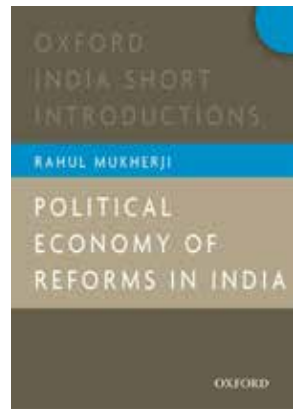
Rahul Mukherji

This short introduction discusses the politics of India's economic growth, state welfare, and development experience, situating it within a larger framework of globalization. It outlines the complex yet inevitable dependency of public welfare on the growth process, pointing out the Indian state's successes and failures on developmental fronts. It evaluates the main political factors impacting India's nearly three-decade-old engagement with economic reforms, globalization, and development.

Rahul Mukherji is on the faculty of the South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

'Mukherji offers an original, lucid, and pithy analysis of India's political economy.'

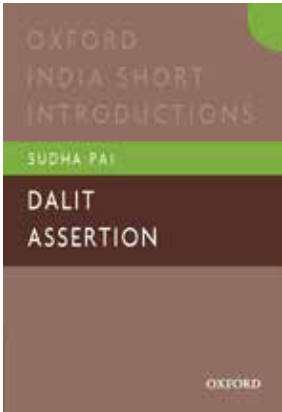
—**John Harriss**, *professor, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Canada.*



9780198087335

₹310 • 224pp

Paperback • 2014



Dalit Assertion

Sudha Pai

This short introduction analyses Dalit assertion in its three contemporary forms—grassroots assertion, social mobilization by Dalit-based political parties, and middle-class activism. The author provides an easy understanding of the various facets of this movement and its impact on the functioning of democratic structures. Highlighting the achievements of this nationwide upsurge, the work provides valuable insight into the Dalit movement discussing its weaknesses, limitations, and future possibilities.

Sudha Pai is rector and professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

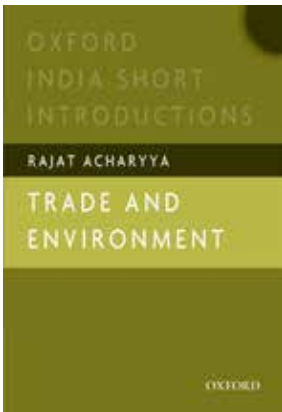
9780198095934

₹295 • 244pp

Paperback • 2013

‘This succinct and insightful overview of a key feature of our times is indispensable reading for anyone interested in understanding the Dalit condition, and how it is shaping India’s future.’

—**Balveer Arora**, *chairman, Centre for Multilevel Federalism and President, Alliance Française, New Delhi.*



Trade and Environment

Rajat Acharyya

This book introduces readers to various aspects of the highly contentious relationship between trade and environment. Using specific case studies, especially the Indian experience, it examines the impact of trade liberalization on the level of pollution, on the one hand, and the impact of environmental regulations on the pattern of trade and foreign investment, on the other. This book will be a useful guide for economists, environmentalists, policymakers, as well as general readers.

Rajat Acharyya is professor of economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

9780198075424

₹225 • 192pp

Paperback • 2013

‘An excellent contribution, which will be useful for researchers, policymakers and students.’

—**Arup Mitra**, *professor of economics, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi.*

Monetary Policy

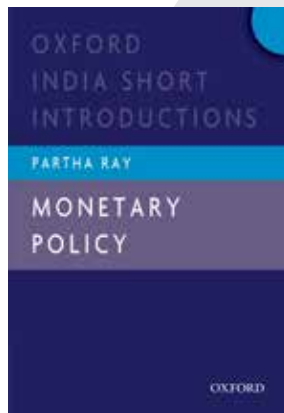
Partha Ray

This short introduction provides a bird's-eye view of the broad contours of monetary policy in India over the period 1934 to current times. From economic planning and bank nationalization, to monetary targeting and financial sector reforms—it shows how Indian monetary policy has been both innovative and diverse by responding to the requirements of different periods. It also examines the new challenges to monetary policy in the context of globalization, such as the spurt of capital inflows and the global financial crisis.

Partha Ray is professor of economics, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata.

'Ray unravels the secrets of the inner temple of money, skilfully and competently demystifying and deconstructing monetary policy in the Indian context.'

—**M.D. Patra**, *adviser-in-charge, Monetary Policy Department, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai.*



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₹345 • 260pp

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Capital Flows and Exchange Rate Management

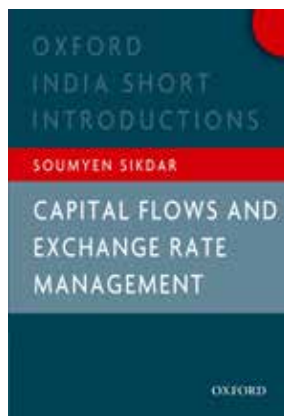
Soumyen Sikdar

India is now a preferred destination among the emerging market economies for foreign investors. Is this transition necessarily beneficial for the Indian economy? What are its consequences and how is it to be regulated? How has the Indian economy successfully averted a financial crisis in the era of economic liberalization, unlike many other developing economies? This short introduction provides answers to questions such as these by analysing the basic forces driving capital flows, their impact on the exchange rate, and their implications for foreign reserves and domestic money supply.

Soumyen Sikdar is professor of economics, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata.

'An extremely lucid introduction ... on the policy challenges that capital flows pose for developing countries like India.'

—**Mihir Rakshit**, *director, Monetary Research Project, ICRA Limited, Kolkata.*



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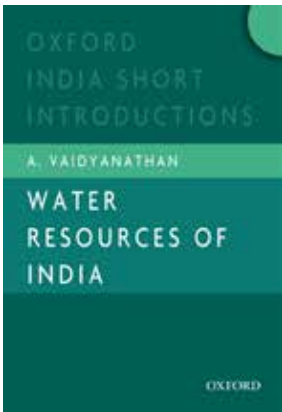
The Civil Services in India

S.K. Das

This short introduction to the civil services in India identifies its importance in nation-building and governance, and puts forth its varied roles in the current polity. This book discusses the evolution and structure of the civil services; processes of recruitment and training; mechanisms of accountability; and the civil servant–political executive relationship. It captures the various contributions and drawbacks of the services, and advocates reforms in the existing set-up towards a cleaner, more efficient and performance-based structure in keeping with India's influence as an emerging superpower.

S.K. Das retired as member (Finance), Space Commission and Atomic Energy Commission and Ex-officio Secretary to Government of India.

'A "must read" for all students of public administration.'
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Water Resources of India

A. Vaidyanathan

Drawing on global and Indian literature as well as field studies, this short introduction provides a holistic analysis of water-related issues and identifies the shortcomings in the present water governance system. The author makes a case for radical changes in strategy and policy, with a shift in focus from merely supply augmentation to encouraging civil society participation, carrying out water governance reforms, and providing incentives for efficient water use.

A. Vaidyanathan is honorary fellow at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

'Time was when rivers were rivers and water, water. Today rivers have become political entities, water the subject and the tool for geo-political contestations. Vaidyanathan observes the flowing arguments, fluid acrimonies and flurried negotiations to suggest wise solutions.'

—**Gopalkrishna Gandhi**, *former governor of West Bengal.*

The Right to Information in India

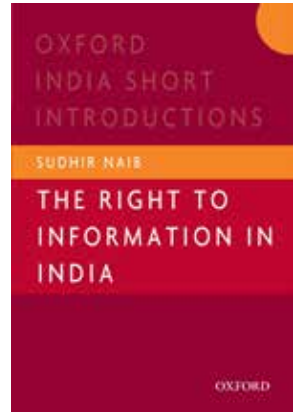
Sudhir Naib

The Right to Information Act 2005 guarantees access to information about government policies and their implementation to Indian citizens. This short introduction analyses the evolution of this landmark Act, the procedures involved in seeking information, the duties of information suppliers, as also the kinds of information exempted from disclosure. Through in-depth comparative analyses of the law in various parts of the world, the book captures the strengths and drawbacks of the RTI Act, narrates success stories, and suggests policy measures to improve its implementation.

Sudhir Naib is director, Bhavan's Usha and Lakshmi Mittal Institute of Management, New Delhi.

'[A] must-read for practitioners, scholars, and general readers alike.'

—**Wajahat Habibullah**, *former chief information commissioner, India.*



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Affirmative Action in India

Ashwini Deshpande

Affirmative action has been the topic of a highly polarized debate, in which it is either demonized as the root of all evil or valorized as the panacea for eliminating discrimination. Sketching out the larger context of and debates around the issue, this short introduction analyses the rationale and implementation of affirmative action in India. Discussing the 'why' and 'how' of affirmative action, with glimpses into its history and dynamics, the book offers a perspective on where India stands today. Using detailed empirical evidence, it assesses the success and limitations of affirmative action in providing socio-political and economic justice.

Ashwini Deshpande is professor of economics, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi.

'[A] clear, compact, and engaging account of the accomplishments and deficiencies of India's affirmative action policies ...'

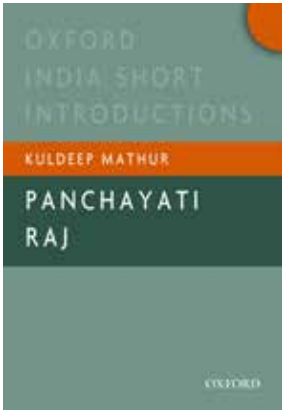
—**Marc Galanter**, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.*



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Panchayati Raj

Kuldeep Mathur

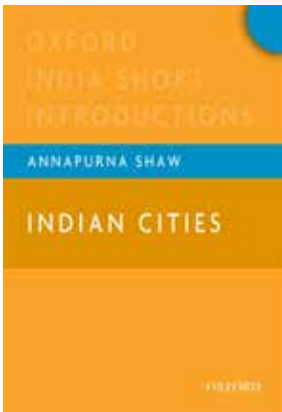
The present system of panchayats in India, mandated by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1993, was created in the midst of the post-1991 'liberalization' of the state-centric economy. This short introduction presents a balanced and complete picture of the philosophy, objectives, evolution, successes, and failures of these institutions in the last two decades. Contextualizing the panchayats in their larger institutional, functional, and ideological framework, this book outlines the critically important roles they will play in future.

Kuldeep Mathur is retired professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

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'Panchayati Raj is an excellent introduction to the subject. [I]t provides insights into a wide range of critical issues for decentralization ...'

—**Niraja Gopal Jayal**, *professor, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.*



Indian Cities

Annapurna Shaw

Unravelling the complex history and evolution, socio-economic activities, and rapidly transforming socio-cultural and spatial landscape of Indian cities, this short introduction provides a highly informative yet accessible analysis of the life and future of urban India. Drawing upon the interdisciplinarity of urban studies and cutting-edge research on cities, the book engages with issues of class divide, identity, migration, and quality of life.

Annapurna Shaw is professor, Public Policy and Management, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata.

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'Like it or not, India's future is in its cities. This superb and accessible overview ... tells us exactly why.'

—**Sanjoy Chakravorty**, *professor, Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University, USA.*

The Poverty Line

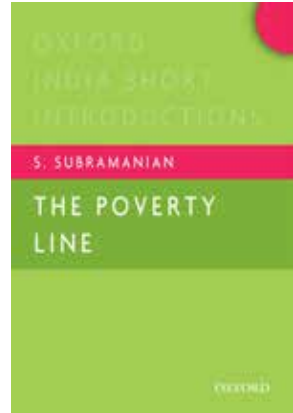
S. Subramanian

This book reviews and critically interprets India's poverty norms, the US Federal Government's poverty thresholds, and the World Bank's international poverty lines. It is a short introduction to the analytics and politics underlying the poverty line—a subject shot through with controversy and disputation, not least because the line plays such a crucial role in determining the measured magnitude and trends of a society's poverty.

S. Subramanian professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai.

'Diligently chronicling and analyzing the last five decades of the Indian experience, this book provides a clear and comprehensive assessment of the evolution of poverty and poverty measurement.'

—**Thomas Pogge**, *Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs, Yale University, USA.*



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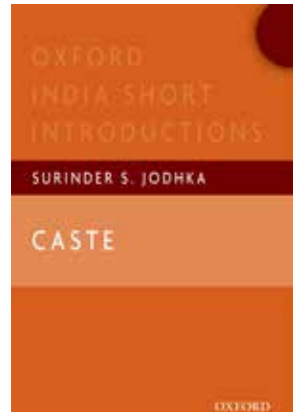
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Caste

Surinder S. Jodhka

This short introduction provides an engaging account of the contemporary manifestations of caste as well as the changing perspectives on caste in social science writing and popular discourse. The book covers the many themes and issues around the lived reality of caste in India—caste as tradition, as a constitutive element in power politics, its manifestation in everyday violence and humiliation, and its contestation by movements 'from below' and policies 'from above'.

Surinder S. Jodhka is professor of sociology at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



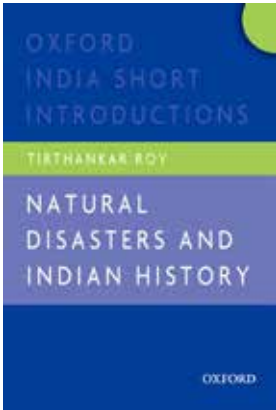
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'It is a wide-ranging exploration of this complex topic, clear and accessible to non-specialists.'

—**James Manor**, *Emeka Anyaoku Professor of Commonwealth Studies, University of London.*



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Natural Disasters and Indian History

Tirthankar Roy

This is a fascinating study of the social and economic history of natural disasters in India. Analysing some of the greatest natural disasters from 1770 to 1935, the author argues that our understanding of such events depends on the timescale we adopt. In the short-run view, natural disasters destroy lives, property, and the rules of society. A long-run view, however, reveals a more silent and stable pattern of response. This book uncovers these silent processes, highlighting how disasters have enabled new understandings of nature, state, and society.

Tirthankar Roy is professor, Department of Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.

'A beautifully written and crafted book ... sheds important new light on a long-term reaction to famines, storms, and earthquakes.'

—**Tim Dyson**, *professor of population studies, London School of Economics, UK.*

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KEY CONTACTS

Yash Mehta, Executive Director
12th Floor, World Trade Tower,
C-1, Sector 16, Main DND Road,
Rajnigandha Chowk,
Noida 201 301

Rishi Malhotra, Head, Trade Sales
Email: rishi.malhotra@oup.com +91 8010001072
12th Floor, World Trade Tower, C-1, Sector 16,
Main DND Road, Rajnigandha Chowk,
Noida 201 301

NORTH

Atiur Rahaman

Email: atiur.rahaman@oup.com
+91 9818225789

Rahul Srivastava

Delhi
Email: rahul.srivastava@oup.com
+91 9911925853

Saurabh Chaudhary

Delhi, Haryana, Punjab,
Chandigarh. J&K, Ladakh
Email: saurabh.chaudhary@oup.com
+91 8010017728

Manish Prajapati

Delhi, Eastern UP, Rajasthan
Email: manish.prajapati@oup.com
+91 9648986399

Amarjeet Singh

Delhi, Madhya Pradesh,
Chhattisgarh
Email: amarjeet.singh@oup.com
+91 9589119005

Chitresh Narayan Bhatt

Delhi, Western UP,
Uttarakhand
Email:
ChitreshNarayan.Bhatt@oup.com
+91 9891325715

Atiur Rahaman

Nepal
Email: atiur.rahaman@oup.com
+91 9818225789

EAST

Pradip Mukherjee

Kolkata, West Bengal, Odisha,
NEHS, Bangladesh, Bhutan
Email: pradip.mukherjee@oup.com
+91 9903894010

Manish Sinha

Kolkata, West Bengal,
Bihar & Jharkhand
Email: manish.sinha@oup.com
Mobile: +91 8005493817

SOUTH

MG Sujith

Karnataka & Kerala
Email: mg.sujith@oup.com
Mobile: +91 9847927681

Sathish Kumar

Tamilnadu
Email: sathish.kumar@oup.com
+91 9380897953

Ravikanth Joseph

AP & Telangana
Email:
joseph.ravikanth@oup.com
+91 9959992622

Rishi Malhotra

Sri Lanka
Email:
rishi.malhotra@oup.com
+91 8010001072

WEST

Atiur Rahaman

Email: atiur.rahaman@oup.com
+91 9818225789

Avinash Damahe

Mumbai Metro,
Maharashtra & Goa
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Block GP, Sector V,
Salt Lake Electronics
Complex, Kolkata 700091
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MUMBAI
167, Vidyanagari Marg,
Kalina, Santacruz (East),
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Ph: 022-66973891-92
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email:
mumbai.in@oup.com

CHENNAI
289 Anna Salai,
Chennai 600006
Ph: 044-28112107;
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email:
chennai.in@oup.com;
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