

# ***Book Notes\****

**Stanley A. Kochanek.** *Patron-Client Politics and Business in Bangladesh.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 387pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 350.00.

The author takes modern business associations in Bangladesh as a case-study to discuss the nature and role of the pressure groups in the political system of that country.

Divided into three parts, Part I deals with the factors that set the parameters of interest group activities in Bangladesh. Part II focuses on the problems encountered by Bangladeshi businessmen in organising themselves for collective action. Part III deals with the influence exerted by business, both individually and collectively, in pressing its demands on government decision-makers, and with assessing the overall impact of business on public policy and the political system in Bangladesh. The conclusion provides an assessment of the similarities and differences in the pattern of interest group politics in the major states of South Asia.

**K. Sadanandan Nair and Shirley A. White (eds).** *Perspectives on Development Communication.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 256pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 250.00.

This is a collection of eighteen original essays focusing on people's participation in development and the effectiveness of development communication. The essays address the transition from the "top-down" approach to the one which involves people at the grassroots level in development decisions. Among the issues explored are: inequality, dependency, changes in social structures, participatory approaches to rural development through communication, and the use of traditional media and modern communication technologies (i.e., computer technology, audio and video electronics, and laser, etc.).

**B. Srinivas.** *Worker Takeover in Industry: The Kamani Tubes Experiment.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 270pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 225.00.

The problem of industrial sickness in India has been of much concern to industrial development. The solution suggested by the author of this book is to hand over the failing enterprises to the workers. The Kamani Tubes Limited, manufacturer in non-ferrous products since 1956, is taken as a model of the first-ever takeover by workers of a sick industrial unit in India.

Divided into eight chapters, the book begins by discussing the reasons for the company's closure, worker reactions and the formation of co-operatives, and the legal battle by the workers to wrest control of Kamani Tubes. The actual takeover and the institutional set-up are also examined, as well as the problems faced by the new management in the areas of production, marketing, and industrial relations. Concepts like "worker control" "workers' takeover" and "workers' buyout" receive particular attention.

The book is of much significance as the episode of Kamani Tubes Limited unfolds a number of

\*Prepared by Durr-e-Nayab, Staff Anthropologist, and Sabiha Ibrahim, Faculty Member, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad.

issues that characterise other sick units in India.

**Ananda Mitra.** *Television and Popular Culture in India: A Study of the Mahabharata.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 198pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 195.00.

Treating "culture" as a set of everyday practices of a people, the author analyses the role played by the state-owned Indian television, Doordarshan, in the production of popular culture. The analysis is based on the extremely popular serial *Mahabharata*, which produced a specifically Hindu-Hindi North Indian image of India, thus marginalising other regional, linguistic, and religious groups.

The book discusses the effectiveness of Doordarshan and its ability to produce a national image. This discussion is connected with the current political, cultural, and social movements in India, with a stress on religious fundamentalism and the issues related to language and gender.

**Shelton U. Kodikara (ed).** *External Compulsions of South Asian Politics.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 352pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 325.00.

For some time, South Asia has been a main focus of the strategic, political, and commercial interests of the super-powers. The resulting pulls and pressures have affected the nature of the inter-state relations within the region. This book deals with the interaction between domestic politics and foreign policy in the South Asian states, and the impact of the international environment on the region.

The "external compulsions" dealt with in this book comprise two sets of parameters. First, they are related to the forces outside South Asia: the extra-regional compulsions. Second, they are concerned with the influences which emanate from one South Asian country and have an impact on another South Asian country—the intra-regional interactions.

The book is not only concerned with the manner in which the big powers, in pursuance of their own interests, have acquired client states in the region; it also deals with the manner in which the South Asian states themselves have invited external powers to come to their assistance militarily, economically, and politically.

**Dennis Kux.** *Estranged Democracies: India and the United States 1941–1991.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. xxiv + 514pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 375.00.

The book deals with political relations between India and the United States, and traces the roots of the differences between the two countries. The focus is on the diplomatic interaction between the two nations since 1947. Other issues, such as economic assistance, trade, and cultural exchanges, are dealt with in the context of politics.

**M. S. Gore.** *The Social Content of an Ideology: Ambedkar's Political and Social Thought.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 361pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 325.00.

This book has two objectives—first, the delineation of one particular ideology of protest and, second, its analysis from the perspective of the sociology of idea systems. The particular ideology that is studied is that of Babasaheb Ambedkar, who launched a movement to promote the interests of the Untouchables and other disadvantaged groups in India.

The author traces the evolution of Ambedkar's ideology, showing how he reached the conclusion

that the Untouchables could not hope to find a life of self-respect within the Hindu fold, and the reasons for his choice of Buddhism as the best solution for the Untouchables.

At the end, the author returns to the broader theoretical interest in the nature of ideology and its linkage with the social context. He shows that the "temporal" location, particularly in terms of the development of the nationalist movement, as also the "social" location, in terms of the caste status, tended to influence the ideological stance adopted by the progenitor of an ideology.

**Andrea M. Singh and Neera Burra (eds).** *Women and Wasteland Development in India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 336pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 295.00.

This volume is the outcome of a national technical workshop on "Women and Wasteland Development" organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in New Delhi in January 1991. The papers presented focus on the evolution of wasteland development in India, the grassroots experience of village women in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, the innovative Forest Protection Committees in West Bengal, the legal implications of women's gaining access to land-based resources, women's participation in wasteland development, and, finally, the policy implications of ensuring a sustainable livelihood for women by improving their legal rights on land.

**ESCAP.** *The Control and Management of Government Expenditure: Issues and Experience in Asian Countries*. Development Papers No. 13. Bangkok: UN Publications. 1993. 496pp. Price not given.

This issue of Development Papers is the research output of a project on the control and management of government expenditures implemented by the ESCAP Secretariat.

The main correlate of development planning by government is carried out through the budgetary process and this issue of Development Papers attempts to highlight the various mechanisms of budget formulation and implementation in the developing and developed countries of the ESCAP region. It also discusses the efficiency and effectiveness of allotting budgetary resources and achieving the objectives of budgetary policies.

Part I summarises the issues involved in the control and management of government expenditure. Part II contains case-studies of Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

**Centre for [the] Development of Instructional Technology.** *Indian Social and Economic Development: An Index to the Literature*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 200pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 250.00

This volume, seventh in the series published by the Centre for [the] Development of Instructional Technology, contains almost 500 entries divided into six fields—ecology, human resources, women/children, empowerment, income generation, and debates. Each entry provides comprehensive bibliographic detail and a description of the contents.