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### The Success of India's Democracy

How has democracy taken root in India in the face of a low-income economy, widespread poverty, illiteracy, and immense ethnic diversity? Atul Kohli brings together some of the world's leading scholars of Indian politics to consider this intriguing anomaly. They do so by focusing not so much on socioeconomic factors, but rather on the ways in which power is distributed in India. Two processes have guided the negotiation of power conflicts. First, a delicate balance has been struck between the forces of centralization and decentralization and, second, the interests of the powerful in society have been served without fully excluding those on the margins. These and related themes are addressed by the editor in his introduction, which is followed by an essay on the historical origins of Indian democracy, and two further sections, one on the consolidation of democratic institutions, and the other on the forces which motivate or inhibit democratic growth. While the book offers a clear and coherent approach to the subject, individual authors have their particular take on the subject. It is this combination that will entice a wide variety of readers, from students on the one hand, as a guide to one of the world's largest democracies, to scholars on the other, who are looking for a new approach to this controversial and much debated subject.

This book has been written under the auspices of the Center of International Studies, Princeton University.

ATUL KOHLI is Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. His publications include *Democracy and Discontent: India's Growing Crisis of Governability* (1991) and (with Joel Migdal and Vivienne Shue) *State Power and Social Forces: Domination and Transformation in the Third World* (1994).

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[More information](#)

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In memory of Myron Weiner (1931–1999)  
who led the way

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xiv</i>
I Introduction ATUL KOHLI	I
I Historical origins	21
2 Indian democracy: the historical inheritance SUMIT SARKAR	23
II Political institutions and democratic consolidation	47
3 India's federal design and multicultural national construction JYOTIRINDRA DASGUPTA	49
4 Center-state relations JAMES MANOR	78
5 Making local government work: local elites, <i>panchayati raj</i> and governance in India SUBRATA K. MITRA	103
6 Redoing the constitutional design: from an interventionist to a regulatory state LLOYD I. RUDOLPH AND SUSANNE HOEBER RUDOLPH	127
7 The dialectics of Hindu nationalism AMRITA BASU	163
III Social demands and democratic deepening	191
8 The struggle for equality: caste in Indian politics MYRON WEINER	193
	ix

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Edited by Atul Kohli  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

x	Contents	
9	Sharing the spoils: group equity, development, and democracy PRANAB BARDHAN	226
10	Social movement politics in India: institutions, interests, and identities MARY KATZENSTEIN, SMITU KOTHARI, AND UDAY MEHTA	242
	<i>Bibliography</i>	270
	<i>Index</i>	287

Cambridge University Press  
 0521801443 - The Success of India's Democracy  
 Edited by Atul Kohli  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

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 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

xii List of contributors

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Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

List of contributors

xiii

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