

## Reinventing the Left in the Global South

This book offers a fresh appraisal of the nature and significance of the democratic Left in the Global South. The moral and intellectual leadership of the Left is shifting south from its European birthplace. It is in the Global South, most notably in Latin America, that one finds newly self-confident progressive movements. This “new” democratic Left includes parties and social movements that not only are avoiding the familiar pitfalls that ensnared socialists and social democrats in the twentieth century, but also are coping with the realities of the twenty-first century, especially neoliberal globalization. In analyzing and illustrating three innovative strategies – moderate social democracy, radical social-democratic transition to socialism, and Left populism – this study nudges the debate about the Left out of the well-worn grooves into which it has fallen in recent decades.

Richard Sandbrook is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Toronto and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Since 1968 he has focused his research on the Left’s experience in the Global South, the relevance of social-democratic thinking to the reshaping of neoliberal globalization, the political economy of the basic-needs and market-oriented development strategies, the relationship of democratization to development, and the political role of workers and the urban poor in Africa. He has published over fifty articles and ten books, including *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery: Origins, Challenges, Prospects* (with Marc Edelman, Patrick Heller and Judith Teichman, Cambridge University Press, 2007).

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Richard Sandbrook

Frontmatter

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*The Politics of the Possible*

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All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Politics is a strong and slow boring of hard boards . . . Only he has the calling for politics who is sure that he shall not crumble when the world from his point of view is too stupid or too base for what he wants to offer. Only he who in the face of all this can say “In spite of all!” has the calling for politics.

Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation”

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## Acknowledgments

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Frankly, I never set out to write this book. If someone had suggested a dozen years ago that I write a book with the scope suggested by the title, I would have demurred. But one thing led to another. It dawned on me that we in the Global North, at a time when our Left has seemingly lost its way, have much to learn from the experience of the democratic Left in the Global South. And so the scope of my inquiry broadened. Yet whatever merit my readers ascribe to this study derives substantially from the advice and support provided by generous friends and colleagues.

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