

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Democratic Dynasties

Dynastic politics, usually presumed to be the antithesis of democracy, is a routine aspect of politics in many modern democracies. This book introduces a new theoretical perspective on dynasticism in democracies, using original data on twenty-first century Indian parliaments. It argues that the roots of dynastic politics lie at least in part in modern democratic institutions – the state and political parties – which give political families a leg up in the electoral process. It also proposes a rethinking of the view that dynastic politics is a violation of democracy, showing that it can reinforce some aspects of democracy while violating others. Finally, this book suggests that both reinforcement and violation are the products, not of some property intrinsic to political dynasties, but of the institutional environment from which those dynasties emerge.

KANCHAN CHANDRA is Professor, Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics
Edited by Kanchan Chandra
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Democratic Dynasties

*State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics*

Edited by

Kanchan Chandra

New York University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107123441

© Cambridge University Press 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2016

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data

Names: Chandra, Kanchan, 1971– editor of compilation.

Title: Democratic dynasties : state, party, and family in contemporary Indian politics / edited by Kanchan Chandra.

Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2016. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015033498 | ISBN 9781107123441 (Hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: Political parties–India. | Politicians–Family relationships–India. | India–Politics and government. | BISAC: POLITICAL SCIENCE / Government / International.

Classification: LCC JQ298.A1 D46 2016 | DDC 320.954–dc23 LC record available at <http://lccn.loc.gov/2015033498>

Hardback ISBN 978-1-107-12344-1

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

In memory of
Lloyd I. Rudolph (1927–2016)
and
Susanne H. Rudolph (1930–2015)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics
Edited by Kanchan Chandra
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>List of contributors</i>	xiv
<i>List of acronyms</i>	xvii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xx
 Prologue	 1
KANCHAN CHANDRA	
1 Democratic dynasties: state, party, and family in contemporary Indian politics	12
KANCHAN CHANDRA	
2 The “old regime” confronts democracy	56
LLOYD I. RUDOLPH AND SUSANNE H. RUDOLPH	
3 A sign of backwardness? Where dynastic leaders are elected in India	83
FRANCESCA R. JENSENIUS	
4 Dynasticism across Indian political parties	105
ADAM ZIEGFELD	
5 Women, dynasties, and democracy in India	136
AMRITA BASU	
6 Disadvantaged groups, reservation, and dynastic politics	173
SIMON CHAUCHARD	
7 Why “Forward Castes” have a dynastic advantage: intra-party politics and co-ethnic favoritism	207
KANCHAN CHANDRA	

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics
Edited by Kanchan Chandra
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii	Contents	
8	Dynasty and “paths to power”	238
	ANJALI THOMAS BOHLKEN	
	<i>Appendix</i>	266
	<i>Index</i>	270

Figures

1.1 Party and dynasty in Indian parliaments (2004–14)	<i>page</i> 16
1.2 Dynastic MPs in the 2004 parliament	19
1.3 Dynastic MPs in the 2009 parliament	20
1.4 Dynastic MPs in the 2014 parliament	21
3.1 Dynastic and royal parliamentarians in the 14th Lok Sabha	90
3.2 Dynastic and royal parliamentarians in the 15th Lok Sabha	91
3.3 Dynastic and royal parliamentarians in the 16th Lok Sabha	92
3.4 Location of princely states in India before independence	93
3.5 Local rootedness of dynastic parliamentarians in the 14th, 15th, and 16th Lok Sabha	94
3.6 Proportion urban and dynasticism in the 14th, 15th, and 16th Lok Sabha	96
3.7 Proportion marginal workers and dynasticism in the 14th, 15th, and 16th Lok Sabha	99
3.8 Literacy rate and dynasticism in the 14th, 15th, and 16th Lok Sabha	100
4.1 Dynasticism by party	106
4.2 Dynasticism by party age	112
4.3 Dynasticism by mode of decision-making	118
4.4 Dynasticism by leadership succession	121
4.5 Dynasticism by age, internal autocracy, and dynastic succession	123
4.6 Dynasticism and party size	127
4.7 Dynasticism and party success	128
4.8 Dynasticism and economic indicators across states	130
4.9 Dynasticism by region and party	132
4.10 Dynasticism by region in Congress and the BJP	133
5.1 Dynasty and women MPs in the 2004 parliament	138
5.2 Dynasty and women MPs in the 2009 parliament	139
5.3 Dynasty and women MPs in the 2014 parliament	140
6.1 Dynastic MPs in constituencies reserved for SCs (2004)	177
6.2 Dynastic MPs in constituencies reserved for SCs (2009)	178

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics
Edited by Kanchan Chandra
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x	List of figures	
6.3	Dynastic MPs in constituencies reserved for SCs (2014)	179
6.4	Dynastic MPs in constituencies reserved for STs (2004)	180
6.5	Dynastic MPs in constituencies reserved for STs (2009)	181
6.6	Dynastic MPs in constituencies reserved for STs (2014)	182
8.1	Box plot of age of dynastic and non-dynastic MPs (15th Lok Sabha)	247
8.2	Box plot of age of dynastic and non-dynastic MPs (14th Lok Sabha)	248

Tables

1.1	Dynastic MPs in Indian parliaments (2004–14)	<i>page</i> 16
1.2	Percent dynastic MPs by party (2004–14)	17
1.3	Percent dynastic MPs by region (2004–14)	18
1.4	Percent dynastic MPs by type of constituency (2004–14)	22
1.5	Percent dynastic MPs by gender (2004–14)	22
1.6	Percent dynastic MPs from across ethnic categories (2004–14)	22
1.7	Royal families as a percent of dynastic class (2004–14)	25
1.8	Characteristics of dynasties in the Indian parliament (2004)	25
1.9	Composition of dynastic class by party (2004–14)	26
1.10	Composition of dynastic class by region (2004–14)	26
1.11	Composition of dynastic class by gender (2004–14)	27
1.12	Composition of dynastic class by ethnicity (2004–14)	27
1.13	Attributes and performance of dynastic and non-dynastic MPs	31
1.14	Winning margin of dynastic MPs (2004–14)	45
3.1	Categories used in the chapter	87
3.2	Number of cases in the dataset for each category of parliamentary constituencies	89
5.1	Women candidates and MPs in Lok Sabha elections, 1951–2014	144
5.2	Representation of women in lower/single house of national parliaments in South Asia in most recent elections	145
5.3	Profile of male and female MPs (2004–14)	146
5.4	Profile of dynastic and non-dynastic female MPs (2004–14)	146
5.5	Women in Congress decision-making structures (2014)	152
5.6	Women in BJP decision-making structures (2014)	153
5.7	Distribution of women MPs by political party (2004–14)	158
6.1	Percentage of dynastic MPs elected in general vs. reserved constituencies (14th LS)	183
6.2	Percentage of dynastic MPs elected in general vs. reserved constituencies (15th LS)	183
6.3	Percentage of dynastic MPs elected in general vs. reserved constituencies (16th LS)	184

xii	List of tables	
6.4	Breakdown of dynastic MPs by party (10 biggest parties) – 14th Lok Sabha.	191
6.5	Breakdown of dynastic MPs by party (10 biggest parties) – 15th Lok Sabha.	192
6.6	Breakdown of dynastic MPs by party (10 biggest parties) – 16th Lok Sabha.	193
6.7	Number and percentage (in parentheses) of SC/ST members of the INC (CWC) and BJP executives from 1972 to 2002	195
6.8	Percentage of SC/ST members in the executive of the Madhya Pradesh INC	196
7.1	Ethnic dominance in political parties in the Indian parliament	212
7.2	Classification of parties based on only on identity of leadership (2004–14)	213
7.3	Classification of parties based only on identity of plurality of MPs (2004–14)	214
7.4(a)	Profile of MPs from different party types (2004) (Leadership)	216
7.4(b)	Profile of MPs from different party types (2004) (Plurality)	216
7.5(a)	Profile of MPs from different party types (2009) (Leadership)	217
7.5(b)	Profile of MPs from different party types (2009) (Plurality)	217
7.6(a)	Profile of MPs from different party types (2014) (Leadership)	217
7.6(b)	Profile of MPs from different party types (2014) (Plurality)	218
7.7(a)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Forward Caste parties (Leadership)	219
7.7(b)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Forward Caste parties (Plurality)	219
7.8(a)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Backward Caste parties (Leadership)	220
7.8(b)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Backward Caste parties (Plurality)	220
7.9(a)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Scheduled Caste parties (Leadership)	221
7.9(b)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Scheduled Caste parties (Plurality)	221
7.10(a)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Scheduled Tribe parties (Leadership)	222
7.10(b)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Scheduled Tribe parties (Plurality)	222
7.11(a)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Muslim parties (Leadership)	224
7.11(b)	Proportion of dynastic MPs from Muslim parties (Plurality)	224

List of tables	xiii
8.1.1 Relationship between dynasty and experience at state or local level (15th Lok Sabha)	243
8.1.2 Relationship between dynasty and experience at state or local level (14th Lok Sabha)	243
8.2 Experience at lower levels conditional on presence of dynastic ties	244
8.3 State and local level experience conditional on dynasty	246
8.4 Education and dynasty	250
8.5 Percentage of dynasts and non-dynasts with political experience at lower levels of government, conditional on education	251
8.6 Proportion of MPs in each category with experience at the state or local level (15th Lok Sabha)	252
8.7 Proportion of MPs in each category with experience at the state or local level (14th Lok Sabha)	252
8.8 Level of government of dynastic origins and political experience (15th Lok Sabha)	255
8.9 Level of government of dynastic origins and political experience (14th Lok Sabha)	256
8.10 Type of family member, dynastic ties and political experience (15th Lok Sabha)	258
8.11 Type of family member, dynastic ties and political experience (14th Lok Sabha)	258
8.12 Dynasty and political experience by party organization (15th Lok Sabha)	260
8.13 Dynasty and political experience by party organization (14th Lok Sabha)	261

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

AMRITA BASU (PhD Columbia University 1984) is the Domenic J. Paino 1955 Professor of Political Science and Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies at Amherst College. She is the author of *Two Faces of Protest: Contrasting Modes of Women's Activism in India*, *Violent Conjectures in Democratic India*, and six edited or co-edited books. She has received awards from the Fulbright Foundation, United States Institute for Peace, Social Science Research Council, American Institute of Indian Studies and the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

ANJALI THOMAS BOHLKEN (PhD New York University, 2010) is an assistant professor of Political Science at the University of British Columbia. She specializes in comparative politics and political economy with an emphasis on India. She is the author of *Democratization from Above: The Logic of Local Democracy in the Developing World*, which examines the political motivations behind the establishment of democratic panchayats in India. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Theoretical Politics* and the *Journal of Peace Research*.

KANCHAN CHANDRA (PhD 2000, Harvard University) is Professor, Wilf Family Department of Politics at NYU. She is lead author of *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics*, and author of *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed: Patronage and Ethnic Headcounts in India*. Her work has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the United States Institute of Peace, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Princeton University Program in Democracy and Development, the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, the SSRC-MacArthur Foundation and the Mellon Foundation.

SIMON CHAUCHARD (PhD 2011, New York University) is an assistant professor of Political Science at Dartmouth College whose recent work has appeared in *Public Opinion Quarterly* and *The American Political*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of contributors

xv

Science Review. He specializes in comparative politics and political psychology with an emphasis on India. He is author of the forthcoming book *Political Representation and Intergroup Relations in Rural India*, which explores the psychological and behavioral impact of local-level reservations for members of the scheduled castes.

FRANCESCA R. JENSENIUS (PhD 2013, University of California Berkeley) is a Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). She is the author of a number of articles on elections and political representation in India, published in *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *Asian Survey*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Party Politics*, *PS: Political Science and Politics* and *Studies in Indian Politics*. Her work has been supported by grants or fellowships from, among others, the Norwegian Research Council, the Center for Causal Inference at UC Berkeley, American Institute of Indian Studies, the Norway-America Association, and Fulbright.

LLOYD I. RUDOLPH (PhD, Harvard University 1956) was Emeritus Professor of the University of Chicago's Department of Political Science. He co-authored eight books with Susanne Hoeber Rudolph, including *The Modernity of Tradition: Political Development in India* [1967]; [1980]; *Gandhi: The Traditional Roots of Charisma* [1983]; *In Pursuit of Lakshmi: The Political Economy of the Indian State* [1987]; and, most recently, *Postmodern Gandhi and Other Essays: Gandhi in the World and at Home* [2006]. He also edited or co-edited and contributed to *Cultural Politics in India* [1984]; *The Idea of Rajasthan* [1994] and *Experiencing the State* [2006]. His work was supported by grants or fellowships from the MacArthur, Ford, National Science and Guggenheim Foundations, the American Institute of Indian Studies [AIIS], the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] and the Fulbright program. He was awarded (with Susanne Rudolph) the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2014.

SUSANNE H. RUDOLPH (PhD Harvard 1955) was the William Benton Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science Emerita. Her books include *Transnational Religion and Fading States*; *Education and Politics in India*; *In Pursuit of Lakshmi: the Political Economy of the Indian State*; and *Essays on Rajputana*. Rudolph also edited *Agrarian Power and Agricultural Productivity in South Asia*. Her work was supported by grants or fellowships from the Ford, National Science and Guggenheim Foundations, the American Institute of Indian Studies [AIIS], and the Fulbright program. She was awarded (with Lloyd Rudolph) the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2014.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi List of contributors

ADAM ZIEGFELD (PhD 2009, MIT) is the International Council Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University. He previously held postdoctoral positions at the University of Chicago and Nuffield College, University of Oxford. He is author of *Why Regional Parties? Clientelism, Elites, and the Indian Party System*, as well as articles on electoral politics that have appeared in *Comparative Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Asian Survey* and *Party Politics*.

Acronyms

AAP	Aam Aadmi Party
AD	Apna Dal
AGP	Asom Gana Parishad
AIADMK	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
AICC	All India Congress Committee
AIFB	All India Forward Bloc
AIMIM	All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen
AINRC	All India N.R. Congress
AITC	All India Trinamool Congress
AUDF	Assam United Democratic Front
BAMCEF	Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation
BC	Backward Caste
BJD	Biju Janata Dal
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BJS	Bharatiya Jan Sangh
BNP	Bharatiya Navshakti Party
BPF	Bodoland People’s Front
BSP	Bahujan Samaj Party
BVA	Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi
CEC	Central Election Committee
CPI	Communist Party of India
CPM	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
DMK	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
DS-4	Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangarsh Samiti
FC	Forward Caste
IFDP	Indian Federal Democratic Party
INC	Indian National Congress
IND	Independents
INLD	Indian National Lok Dal
JD(S)	Janata Dal (Secular)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xviii List of acronyms

JD(U)	Janata Dal (United)
JKN	Jammu and Kashmir National Conference
JKPDP	Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party
JMM	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha
JVM	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik)
KEC	Kerala Congress
KLP	Krishikar Lok Party
KMPP	Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party
LJNSP	Lok Janashakti Party
LJP	Lok Janashakti Party
MDMK	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MLALADS	Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme
MP	Member of Parliament
MPLADS	Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme
MNF	Mizoram National Front
MUL	Muslim League Kerala State Committee
NCP	Nationalist Congress Party
NLP	National Loktantrik Party
NPF	Nagaland Peoples Front
NPP	National People's Party
NREGA	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
OBC	Other Backward Classes
PCC	Pradesh Congress Committee
PMK	Pattali Makkal Katchi
RJD	Rashtriya Janata Dal
RLD	Rashtriya Lok Dal
RPI(A)	Republican Party of India (Ambedkar)
RRP	Ram Rajya Parishad
RSP	Revolutionary Socialist Party
RSS	Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh
SAD	Shiromani Akali Dal
SC	Scheduled Caste
SDF	Sikkim Democratic Front
SHS	Shiv Sena
SJP(R)	Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)
SP	Samajwadi Party
ST	Scheduled Tribe
SWP	Swabhimani Paksha
TDP	Telugu Desam Party

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary
Indian Politics
Edited by Kanchan Chandra
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

List of acronyms xix

TRS	Telangana Rashtra Samithi
VCK	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi
YSRCP	Yuvajana Shramika Rythu Congress Party

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

This book began in 2009, as a detour from a study of the relationship between ethnic politics and democracy in South Asia. While in India to study that subject, I was distracted by several aspects of democratic politics in post-liberalization India which could not be reduced to ethnicity but had important connections with it. Dynastic politics is one of them. It was impossible to ignore the large number of MPs with a dynastic background elected to the 2009 parliament. Dynasticism in parliament was accompanied by dynasticism in parties, cabinets, past prime ministerships, chief ministerships, state legislatures, and panchayats (village councils). Why were there so many dynastic politicians in India? How did dynastic politics relate to ethnic politics, if at all? And what did it mean for both democratic practice and democratic theory?

The first step in answering those questions was collecting the data. I began collecting data on the family backgrounds of Indian MPs with the assistance of a dedicated group of NYU students among whom Wamiq Umaira, Arthur Won Hai Chan, Sapana Gandhi, and Aeshna Badruzzaman deserve special mention. I was joined later by Anjali Bohlken from the University of British Columbia (UBC), and Simon Chauchard of Dartmouth College, assisted by Jeet Chatterjee, Alex Mierke-Zatwarnicki, Ariel Rouhi, Chinmay Thakkar at UBC and Soumya Gupta, Aparna Krishnan, and Teva Levens at Dartmouth. Working together, we created the substantially expanded dataset that now informs the book. This dataset covers three parliaments, elected in 2004, 2009, and 2014. It is the most extensive dataset that we are aware of on the attributes of individual MPs in India, and of the constituencies, dynasties, and parties to which they belong. I discussed early patterns in the data in articles published in *Seminar* (April 2011) (with Wamiq Umaira) and *Economic and Political Weekly* (Vol XLIX, No. 28, July 12, 2014).

As the data took shape, I invited several colleagues to use them to identify, interpret, and theorize about some of the patterns that they saw in dynastic politics in India and its relationship to democracy. Collaboration held the promise of producing work of greater depth, range, and quality than one person could do alone. I asked them to focus, not on testing hypotheses, but

xx

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

xxi

on suggesting concepts, establishing and contextualizing basic facts about dynastic politics, building hypotheses to explain these facts, and exploring the implications of these facts and hypotheses for democratic theory. We know so little about the working of dynastic politics in modern democracies that this seemed the obvious first order task, after which we and others could move on to testing some of the hypotheses suggested here.

This book is the result. All chapters use the same data to address different aspects of dynastic politics in India and its relationship with democracy. Our reading of the data is contextual, informed by party statements and documents, political memoirs, interviews, and newspaper reports. And although we worked independently, to the extent that the work of social scientists who share a discipline and an area specialization can be said to be independent, our conclusions point in the same direction, with differences in nuance and emphasis: Dynastic politics in India is fundamentally shaped by modern democratic institutions and, in particular, the state and political parties. This institutionally shaped form of dynastic politics, paradoxically, reinforces some aspects of democracy while subverting others.

When we began work on this project, dynastic politics in modern democracies was remarkably understudied. But in the five years since, it has begun receiving sustained attention. In 2009, a standard-setting article on political dynasties in the United States was published by Ernesto Dal Bo, Pedro Dal Bo, and Jason Snyder (Dal Bo, Dal Bo and Snyder 2009). In India, Patrick French's book, *India: A Portrait*, stimulated a lively discussion of dynastic politics (French 2011). Several empirically driven research projects on dynastic politics are now underway, including by my colleague Pablo Querubin at NYU, who studies dynastic politics in twentieth-century Philippines, and by Daniel Smith at Harvard University, whose work creates the broadest comparative framework of which I am aware within which to situate dynastic politics in individual countries. This literature establishes that dynastic politics is in fact an entrenched feature of modern democracies – India is not unique – and while the questions it asks are varied, the answers also suggest that democratic institutions and dynastic politics can reinforce, as well as undermine, each other. We hope that this book creates a foundation for theorizing about, and testing for, these interactions between institutions, democracy, and dynasty.

For conversations, and sometimes written comments, that have contributed to the arguments made here, I am grateful to Adam Auerbach, Nathaniel Beck, Rikhil Bhavnani, Bruno Biais, Isabelle Clark-Deces, Patrick Egan, Sanford Gordon, Nancy Hite, Yoshiko Herrera, Rob Jenkins, Anirudh Krishna, Melanie Manion, Jonathan Nagler, Pablo Querubin, Adam Ramey, Cyrus Samii, Jake Shapiro, Daniel Smith, Gopal Vasudev, Adam Ziegfeld, the two anonymous reviewers for Cambridge University Press, and the contributors to this volume.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-12344-1 - Democratic Dynasties: State, Party, and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics

Edited by Kanchan Chandra

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxii Acknowledgments

I learnt a great deal from sustained discussions with Anjali Bohlken, with whom I have also collaborated on separate work which conducts a statistical test of some of the arguments made here.

I thank colleagues for invitations to present a separate paper on dynastic politics at seminars or panels that they organized, which invariably improved the quality of the arguments made in this book too: Rikhil Bhavnani (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Atul Kohli and Deborah Yashar (Princeton Seminar on Democracy and Development), Daniel Smith (Mid-West Political Science Association Meetings), and Zeynep Bulutgil (Tufts University). Tejbir Singh and Harsh Sethi's invitation to guest-edit an issue of *Seminar* on "Dynasties in South Asia" in 2011 provided an important opportunity to explore early versions of the arguments and data. The themes and data of an essay in that issue, co-authored with Wamiq Umaira, have been considerably expanded, revised and in some cases corrected, in this volume.

The unstinting support of Aruna Magier, NYU's South Asia librarian, and Himanshu Mistry, the Faculty Technology Specialist at NYU's GIS-Data Service Studio), made a large difference to this book. Milan Vaishnav generously allowed us to use the data he had compiled from election affidavits on the criminal background of Indian MPs. Francesca R. Jensenius shared her data on changes in the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies before and after a new delimitation exercise completed in 2008 and also created all the maps used in this book using data from www.mlinfomap.com acquired by the NYU library. At Cambridge University Press, I am especially grateful to our editor, Lucy Rhymer, and to Chloe Harris and Anand Shanmugam for shepherding the book through the production process.

The research that informs this book would not have been possible without the time and resources made possible by several institutions. Fellowships from the Guggenheim and Carnegie Foundations funded the original project on ethnicity and democracy, which generated several others, including this book. The creative freedom those grants provided has been invaluable in all of my recent research. The Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, where I was a fellow when this project began, and the Program for Democracy and Development at Princeton University, where I put the finishing touches on it, created research environments that were both peaceful and stimulating. I am especially grateful to NYU's Department of Politics for time, resources and a remarkably stimulating intellectual community. The élan with which our administrative director, Diana Barnes, does impossible things makes my work possible, and the camaraderie of my colleagues makes it a pleasure.

KANCHAN CHANDRA