

Planning Democracy

The Indian planning project was one of the postcolonial world's most ambitious experiments. *Planning Democracy* explores how India fused Soviet-inspired economic management and Western-style liberal democracy at a time when they were widely considered fundamentally contradictory. After nearly two centuries of colonial rule, planning was meant to be independent India's route to prosperity. In this engaging and innovative account, Nikhil Menon traces how planning built India's knowledge infrastructure and data capacities, while also shaping the nature of its democracy. He analyses the challenges inherent in harmonizing technocratic methods with democratic mandates and shows how planning was the language through which the government's aspirations for democratic state-building were expressed. Situating India within international debates about economic policy and Cold War ideology, Menon reveals how India walked a tightrope between capitalism and communism which heightened the drama of its development on the global stage.

Nikhil Menon is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-51733-8 — Planning Democracy
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AWARDED THE

*Joseph W. Elder Prize
in the Indian Social Sciences*

by the American Institute of Indian Studies
and published with their generous support

Planning Democracy

Modern India's Quest for Development

Nikhil Menon

University of Notre Dame



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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/9781316517338
DOI: 10.1017/9781009043892

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First published 2022

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Menon, Nikhil, author.

Title: Planning democracy : modern India's quest for development / Nikhil Menon, University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Description: First Edition. | New York : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021039316 (print) | LCCN 2021039317 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316517338 (Hardback) | ISBN 9781009043892 (eBook)

Subjects: LCSH: Political planning – India. | Democratization – India. | BISAC: HISTORY / Asia / India & South Asia

Classification: LCC JQ229.P64 M46 2022 (print) | LCC JQ229.P64 (ebook) | DDC 320.60954–dc23/eng/20211202

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021039316>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021039317>

ISBN 978-1-316-51733-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-04458-5 Paperback

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978-1-316-51733-8 — Planning Democracy
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For Amma, Achan, and Nitya

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Acknowledgements

This book owes more to others than the conventions of sole authorship convey.

My first brush with terms like ‘the Indian economy’ and ‘Planning Commission’ was in books at The School – Krishnamurti Foundation India (KFI), Chennai. In the shade and amid the blooms of that beautiful campus, I had a wonderful education. Of the many *Akkas* and *Annas*, I am especially grateful to my history teachers, Akhila Seshadri, Jayashree Nambiar, V. Geetha, and M. V. Kumar.

The seven years I spent studying in Delhi, beginning as a teenager, were a revelation. I was the beneficiary of a string of inspiring teachers and formidable scholars, including Mukul Mangalik, Hari Sen, Pankaj Jha, Shahid Amin, Dilip Menon, Prabhu Mohapatra, and Sunil Kumar at Delhi University, and Janaki Nair, Neeladri Bhattacharya, Tanika Sarkar, Radhika Singha, and M. S. S. Pandian at Jawaharlal Nehru University. They modelled committed teaching and rigorous scholarship, demonstrating what it can and should do for our public sphere.

This research owes most to the place where it sprouted. Princeton, quaint and picturesque, was exciting because of its contrast to what I knew. Working there was a feast that I partook of immoderately. Gyan Prakash’s interest in, and scholarship on, postcolonial India was part of the inspiration for this project. He channelled unformed ideas into research, offering insight and steadfast support. His acuity helped clear intellectual hurdles, and his levity eased what might otherwise have felt like a slog: I owe much to his generosity. Bhavani Raman’s brilliance shone a light on insights that were not apparent to me. Despite my inability to keep pace, she always led me to draw from a deeper well. Jeremy Adelman pushed me to ask broader questions, geographically and analytically. While this work may fall short of the scale he envisioned, he supported it throughout and contributed to widening its scope. I requested Michael Gordin to formally join my committee when I realized that the insights he casually dispensed at seminars were too good to be left to chance. Partha Chatterjee – whose writings on this

subject (as with several others) have been so generative – kindly agreed to read my work and offer his thoughts.

Being embedded in a community of scholars studying South Asia at Princeton was a pleasure. Rohit Lamba was a sunny bridge between university life in North Campus and New Jersey and a welcome source of joviality and conversations on Indian politics. Rohit De and Radha Kumar are friends who helped navigate the path to the PhD and beyond. Sharing a professional interest in independent India, Rohit De has been remarkably helpful – exchanging ideas and commenting on the entire manuscript, whilst also sharing laughs. Aside from enjoying their companionship, I also learned so much from discussions with Rahul Sagar, Rotem Geva, Ninad Pandit, Nabaparna Ghosh, Christina Welsch, Anthony Acciavatti, Ritwik Bhattacharya, Vinay Sitapati, Dinsha Mistree, Rohan Mukherjee, Joppan George, Devika Shankar, Kalyani Ramnath, Sarah Carson, Amna Qayyum, Shoumitro Chatterjee, Saumyashree Ghosh, Niharika Yadav, and Manav Kapur.

I would not have made it through graduate school without Patrick De Oliveira, Sean Vanatta, Olivier Burtin, Morgan Robinson, Dan Barish, and Fidel Tavaréz – all of whom have been wonderful friends and academic allies, reading and commenting on drafts of several chapters. I was lucky to earn the friendship of Saarah Jappie, Christian Flow, Richard Anderson, Joel Suarez, Matthew Chan, Diana Andrade, Meg Leja, and Alex Chase-Levenson. Outside department and discipline, I counted on the company of Sudhir Raskutti, Clementine van Effenterre, Sara Vanatta, Elise Wang, Jasmin Mujanovic, and Veronica Valentin.

Since our undergraduate years, Devika Shankar, Meghna Chaudhuri, and Shatam Ray have been friends and fellow travellers, alongside whom I learned to be a historian. Abhijeet Singh, Vinayak Uppal, and Vimal Balasubramaniam all read my manuscript entirely out of friendship, providing astute advice and ensuring the book did not fall afoul of elementary economics. Vimsa has been the dearest friend, a reliable source of wisdom, intellectual provocation, and mirth since we were very young. Conversation and correspondence with Benjamin Siegel, Aditya Balasubramanian, Mircea Raianu, Eleanor Newbiggin, Jahnvi Phalkey, Arunabh Ghosh, and Taylor C. Sherman have improved my work considerably: their scholarship has enriched mine. Ramachandra Guha, C. P. Chandrasekhar, and Srinath Raghavan were all generous in responding to my requests for lessons on finer aspects of the Nehru years, Plan models, and democratic planning. Montek Singh Ahluwalia spared time to discuss his memories of Mahalanobis and the Planning Commission. Mahesh Rangarajan was enormously helpful when, as

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director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, he facilitated my applications for access to the Jawaharlal Nehru papers.

During spells of research in New Delhi, Sowmiya Ashok was a friend and flatmate, enduring frequent and undoubtedly boring updates from the archive with cheeriness and enthusiasm. Our meandering conversations were welcome and necessary. Vishwajoy Mukherjee also hosted me and was subjected to similar punishment for his kindness. He toggled between interest in my project and incredulity that anyone would be fooled into thinking me a scholar. My brilliant and gentle friend, Harsh Malhotra, passed away while I was working on this. A budding economist, I am sure he would have improved my book and even said kind things about it – the latter only because he was unfailingly kind. My time in the city was enlivened by the company of friends, including Maanav Kumar, Tara Narula, Pradyumna Jairam, and Garima Sahai. New Delhi would not feel like a home away from home if it were not for Indira Chandrasekhar and C. P. Chandrasekhar, my Veliamma and Mama. Their house has been a refuge since I first moved to the city. I am deeply thankful for their years of care and intellectual inspiration.

I am very fortunate to be working with such supportive colleagues in the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame. As department chairs, Patrick Griffin, Jon Coleman, and Elisabeth Koll have been helpful and encouraging, as have Alexander Martin and Darren Dochuk in their role as mentors. I have also had the benefit of advice and advocacy from Gail Bederman, Karen Graubart, Jaime Pensado, Brad Gregory, Robert Sullivan, Julia Thomas, John McGreevy, Thomas Tweed, John Deak, Richard Pierce, and Mariana Candido. Ted Beatty has been a sounding board and helpful commenter on this book, taking the time to read two drafts. The department helped put together a manuscript workshop, which enabled me to invite David C. Engerman and Neeti Nair to offer critical feedback. I am grateful to them for agreeing to do so, for their close reading, and for their excellent suggestions. The book is considerably better for it.

Life in the shadow of the university's golden dome or in South Bend would not be the same without the camaraderie of friends like Paul Ocobock, Sarah Shortall, Emily Remus, Rebecca McKenna, Abi Ocobock, James Lundberg, Katie Jarvis, Randy Goldstein, Ian Johnson, Korey Garibaldi, Francisco Robles, Pedro Aguilera-Mellado, and Kate Utti. Joshua Specht went far beyond the call of friendly duty to read the manuscript and other bits and pieces to offer comments. My colleagues in the nascent South Asia Group – Julia Kowalski, Susan Osterman, and Amitava Dutt – have been forceful allies in our quest to broaden the study of India and South Asia on campus.

Endeavours like this would not have been possible without libraries, archives, and the essential but unheralded work of their staff. I am deeply thankful to librarians and archivists spread across three continents – Firestone Library, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum and Library, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, National Archives of India, Central Secretariat Library, Yojana Bhavan Library, Films Division of India, Rockefeller Archive Center, The British Library, The Hindu Archives, The Cambridge South Asian Archive, and Hesburgh Library. Yamuna Shankar graciously allowed me to use cartoons by her father K. Shankara Pillai. The former director of the Indian Statistical Institute (Kolkata), Bimal Roy, facilitated my research in Baranagore and accommodated me in a campus dorm. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay and Kishor Satpathy granted me permission to use images from the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum and Library.

This research has been the beneficiary of generous funding from Princeton University's Graduate School, the Department of History, the Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. It has also been supported by the History Project at Cambridge University, the Rockefeller Archive Center, the Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the University of Notre Dame's Department of History, and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. The book's publication was made possible in part by support from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame, and also from the American Institute for Indian Studies.

At Cambridge University Press, the superb Lucy Rhymer saw potential in my research and has been a wonderful steward throughout. Rachel Blaifeder took the reins briefly and ably nudged the book along. The Press' anonymous readers offered very helpful feedback that sharpened my arguments and pointed me to oversights. Emily McKnight, an independent copy editor, helped scrub the manuscript of infelicities before submission to the Press.

It is a sadness that my grandparents are not alive for me to present this. They would undoubtedly have welcomed it with pride, regardless of merit, as they did for every ordinary step throughout childhood. Their appreciation for learning – captured in the clickety-clack of my grandfather's noisy typewriter – has stayed with me. I owe my parents, Bina Shivram and K. Shivram, and my sister Nitya Menon, more than I can express. They have watched this book take form and accepted it as background noise in our relationship. Amma, an inspiring educator, insisted her children aspire to qualities of mind rather than shallow credentials. Achan affectionately indulged me with interest in the

xiv Acknowledgements

book's progress and provided reassurance through setbacks. Nitya offered both diversion from the writing and enthusiasm for it, all while keeping up our childhood banter. I dedicate this to them.

Katlyn Marie Carter has endured this book from its inception several years ago when we were in graduate school. She inspires me as a researcher and teacher, wearing her brilliance lightly and without pretension. She has been a co-conspirator, critic, and editor – my partner in rowing this boat. Every page bears her mark. As we wrote our books alongside one another, we have moved cities, got married, began our careers, and had a child. This book, as with so much in my life, would not exist if it were not for her. Our daughter Anjali came into our life recently but has transformed it thoroughly. She is an indescribable joy who puts all else, including this book, in perspective.