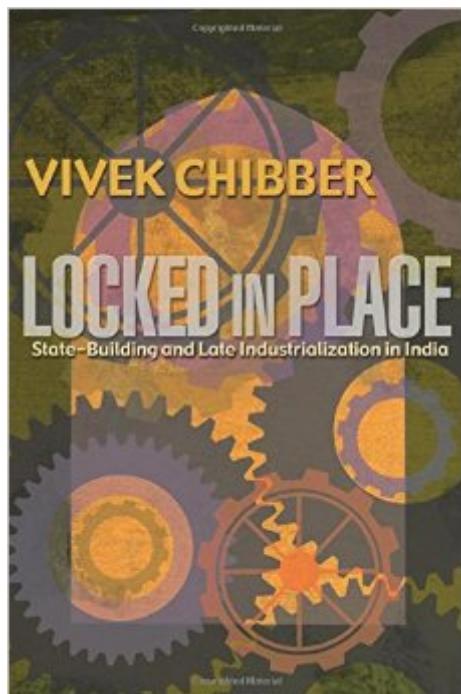


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Locked In Place: State-Building And Late Industrialization In India



Synopsis

Why were some countries able to build "developmental states" in the decades after World War II while others were not? Through a richly detailed examination of India's experience, *Locked in Place* argues that the critical factor was the reaction of domestic capitalists to the state-building project. During the 1950s and 1960s, India launched an extremely ambitious and highly regarded program of state-led development. But it soon became clear that the Indian state lacked the institutional capacity to carry out rapid industrialization. Drawing on newly available archival sources, Vivek Chibber mounts a forceful challenge to conventional arguments by showing that the insufficient state capacity stemmed mainly from Indian industrialists' massive campaign, in the years after Independence, against a strong developmental state. Chibber contrasts India's experience with the success of a similar program of state-building in South Korea, where political elites managed to harness domestic capitalists to their agenda. He then develops a theory of the structural conditions that can account for the different reactions of Indian and Korean capitalists as rational responses to the distinct development models adopted in each country. Provocative and marked by clarity of prose, this book is also the first historical study of India's post-colonial industrial strategy. Emphasizing the central role of capital in the state-building process, and restoring class analysis to the core of the political economy of development, *Locked in Place* is an innovative work of theoretical power that will interest development specialists, political scientists, and historians of the subcontinent.

Book Information

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (April 24, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691126232

ISBN-13: 978-0691126234

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,109,346 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 inÂ Books > History > Asia > Korea > South #1247 inÂ Books > History > Asia > India #1724 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Asia

Customer Reviews

Vivek Chibber's book on the failures of industrialization is not one that most people are likely to read, even in the unlikely occurrence that they ever encountered it. Filled with such unenthralling topics as "nodal agencies", "the developmental state," "the developmental bourgeoisie," "state capacity," and with how to create more efficient and effective bureaucracies, it is not a book that is likely to attract most people's interest. And it is true that Chibber does not have a style that would bring these topics to life. Nevertheless this is a book that should not be ignored, because it deals with a very important topic. As everyone knows, many third world countries sought to industrialize in the post war period with the help of state intervention. India under the Congress Party was a particularly prominent example of the developmental state. As time went on this path was ultimately unsuccessful, and for the past two or three decades, the IMF and the World Bank have been encouraging private enterprise and free trade. According to the advocates of globalization, state encouraged industrialization is a failure. But there is a striking exception to the narrative of failure: South Korea. It is the value of Chibber's book that it explains why India was so much less successful than Korea. One might think that the reason South Korea was so much more successful than its rivals was because it had a streamlined and efficient bureaucracy. But this is not necessarily the case: in the mid-eighties it required as many as 310 approvals and 312 documents before permission was granted to form a new industrial plant. One might think that the difference was the result of the strategy of industrialization.

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