Economic reform in India has largely taken place at a time of assertive cultural nationalism and growing pressures for advancement and assertion from within India's subaltern communities. This book explores the mainsprings, contours and consequences of democratisation, decentralisation and development in India and offers new insights into its contemporary political economy. It considers how and why unequal patterns of economic growth have taken shape within the context of a democratic and decentralising political system, and how and why that system has impacted upon processes of economic development. The different articles address how competing claims have been negotiated; in what measure has a bias in favour of political decentralisation helped the government push ahead with an economic reform agenda; and who is being left behind in the race for income growth. The book makes some important theoretical contributions to the continuing debates on democracy and development in the Indian context and balances the arguments with good variety of empirical material.

The book will be of interest to scholars of development studies and policy makers as also to those in the field of area studies, South Asia studies, comparative politics, sociology and geography.

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