

## Acknowledgements

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As I wind up my teaching career and supervise the last six doctoral students before my retirement in a couple of years, my thanks to all the doctoral students I have ever had. Every engagement with each one of you taught me something valuable.



The section on women and land rights in chapter 5 is the latest version of two lectures delivered in 2015—the Nisha Dhanagere Memorial Lecture at Savitribai Phule University of Pune, and at the Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Versions of the lectures appear as chapters in Suren Pillay, ed., *On the Subject of Citizenship: Late Colonialism in the World Today*, and Toshie Awaya and Kazuo Tomozawa, eds., *Inclusive Development in South Asia*. The section on Universal Basic Income in chapter 5 was first presented at the South Asia @ NYU Annual Conference in 2017 (Inequality in South Asia), and later at an online seminar in King's College London. I would like to acknowledge the discussions and comments I received at these presentations.

The section on the Sethusamudram Project in chapter 5 is an updated and expanded version of part of an earlier paper in a volume I co-edited with Aditya Nigam and Sanjay Palshikar, *Critical Studies in Politics: Sites, Selves, Power*. The CSP (Critical Studies in Politics) group of scholars and our stimulating interactions in the course of the production of the volume are an important landmark in my intellectual journey.

I started thinking systematically from the global South with a lecture delivered in 2017 in the Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru Memorial Lecture Series organised by the School of International Studies, Jawa-

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Subsequently, I taught a course titled “Critical Thought from the Global South,” and, in the five or six years since then, have benefited greatly from the highly motivated students who opted for the course; their intellectual curiosity and critical minds pushed and broadened my horizons. The core of chapter 3 is the K. R. Narayanan Memorial Lecture I was invited to deliver at the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation, Kozhikode, Kerala, in November 2017, with a somewhat developed version published in the *Economic and Political Weekly* (vol. 54, issue 38, 21 September 2019), and later in a volume bringing together the lecture series titled *Nationhood, Social Justice, and Unequal Transformations: Essays for K. R. Narayanan*, ed. D. D. Nampoothiri, et al. The idea of insurgent constitutionalism in chapter 6 was developed in the Chinta Ravindran Memorial Lecture (2018), and in a presentation at a conference titled “Cultures of the Left in the Age of Right Wing Populism” organised by scholars of Warwick University and Jawaharlal Nehru University (2019), and also in the Professor V. Aravindakshan Foundation Memorial Lecture (2022).

The collective blog begun by some of us in 2006, *Kafila*, continues to sputter along, completely unfunded and at the mercy of the constraints of time upon its remaining active members, and has served as a platform that germinates early ideas that sometimes lead to longer articles and books. Many of the ideas in this book too have had their earliest incarnations in posts on *Kafila*.

Rukun Advani I thank for his editorial skill that saved many an over-academic formulation of mine from certain death. This being a book for general readers as much as for academics and scholars, I have followed his suggestion to stay clear of diacritical marks.

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When citing or referring to Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanese writers, I have followed the conventions of scholars in the field.



This book has taken shape over a decade that has seen the chaos wrought by India's descent into Hindu supremacist rule, and by the pandemic. It would have been difficult to survive, let alone be productive, without the networks of solidarity and friendship and intimacy that we managed to build and sustain.

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This book is dedicated to one of my oldest friends whom we lost to cancer in 2021, the Sri Lankan feminist scholar and democratic rights activist Malathi de Alwis. Malathi inspired generations with her passion for justice and the networks of solidarity and friendship she built across continents. I miss her luminous presence in my life.