



## Kautilya's Arthashastra: An Intellectual Portrait

The Classical Roots of Modern Politics in India

Von Prof. Subrata K. Mitra, Ph.D. (Rochester, USA) und  
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### **Subrata K. Mitra & Michael Liebig: Kautilya's Arthashastra: An Intellectual portrait – The Classical Roots of Modern Politics in India**

*Kautilya's Arthashastra: An Intellectual portrait – The Classical Roots of Modern Politics in India* showcases the endogenous politico-strategic thought that underpins India's rise in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The political institutions and processes in contemporary India have remained deeply grounded in its pre-modern political heritage, succinctly codified in Kautilya's *Arthashastra*. These themes are explored through such bridge concepts as the 'modernity of tradition' and the 're-use of the past' in tackling contemporary political problems. These concepts are key factors that explain the resilience and stability of India's hybrid political institutions and democratic system as well as its foreign policy conduct. Even though Kautilya's *Arthashastra* is a foundational text of Political Science and International Relations theory, it has, so far, been largely marginalized in Political Science. Mitra's and Liebig's book is meant to change that. As well, the volume provides a major contribution to South Asian area studies, comparative politics and comparative political theory.

“Rare indeed is a study of political science and political theory that can reset how we understand politics. Mitra and Liebig have written such a remarkable book. Their brilliant analysis will most deservedly resurrect Kautilya and his stupendous Arthashastra.”

**Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Julius Silver Professor of Politics, NYU, 9/2016**

“The book is a must read for any person even remotely associated with contemporary politics.”

**Vinod Rai, former Controller and Auditor General of India, 9/2016**

“In many ways, India remains an inscrutable bundle of economic, social and political contradictions; yet, it embodies a fusion of ‘modern politics’ and ancient ‘tradition’ combining to make for the unique model that we know as ‘Indian democracy’. In this volume, Subrata Mitra and Michael Liebig bring to bear their deep insight, mastery over theory, and powerful analytical skill to explain the reasons why, in an admirably lucid fashion.”

**Iftexhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, 9/2016**

“Kautilya’s Arthashastra is an amazing monument of ancient political science. [...] This present contemporary study highlights its importance for Indian political tradition.”

**Dietmar Rothermund, emeritus professor of history, Heidelberg University, 9/2016**

Kautilya is a critical source for understanding the Indian way. This book is a pioneering work that will inspire further research on the rediscovery of India.”

**Rahul Mukherji, Professor of Political Science of South Asia, Heidelberg University, 9/2016**

“Kautilya’s relevance has been under-appreciated in the study of Indian politics. Mitra and Liebig’s tour de force will set that right. In a volume of unprecedented scale and depth encompassing India’s intellectual and strategic history, they bring out the profound contemporary impact of one of India’s truly great political thinkers.”

**Rajesh Basrur, Professor of International Relations, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 9/2016**

“Subrata Mitra and Michael Liebig have made a signal contribution to the emergent discourse on Kautilya in the subcontinent and beyond.”

**C. Raja Mohan, Director, Carnegie India, Delhi, 9/2016**

“A work of deep and passionate scholarship that takes you up the intellectual ladder.”

**Duvvuri Subbarao, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, 2008–2013, 9/2016**