

Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia Department of Political Science

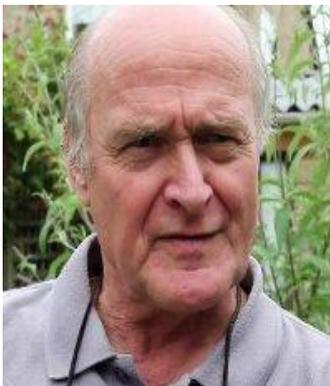
Business and Politics in India: the Tamil Nadu Puzzle

by

Professor John Harriss

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The political economy of Tamil Nadu presents a puzzle: in spite of politics that are generally considered to be unhelpful to development, the state does relatively well in terms both of economic growth and of human development. The chapter argues that Tamil Nadu is neither a developmental, nor a social democratic state, while having some of the features of both. It is, rather, characterized by Bonapartism. While the state has been generally supportive of big business, the relationship between the corporate sector and the political elite is distinctly 'arms-length'. The power and influence of business groups has not 'grown enormously', as has been claimed elsewhere. Tamil politicians do not rely for financial resources on big business, but have their own sources of finance, some of them in semi-legal or illegal activities such as sand mining and granite quarrying.



John Harriss is currently Professor, and was the founding Director of the School for International Studies, at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. He was formerly Professor of Development Studies at the London School of Economics; and is a sometime Dean of the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia. He has researched in and on India, and on Tamil Nadu in particular, since the early 1970s. Publications include *Reinventing India: Economic Liberalism, Hindu Nationalism and Popular Democracy* (co-authored with Stuart Corbridge; Polity Press 2000); and *Reinventing Social Democratic Development* (with Olle Tornquist; Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2016). Harriss is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Date: Monday, May 14, 2018

Time: 16:00-18:00

Venue: SAI 317

All are cordially invited!