

THE BOOK REVIEW

VOLUME XLIX NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY 2025

Indian Diplomacy Under Scrutiny
IP Khosla

Securing India
Ajay K Mehra

Behind-the-Scenes Story of Three Wars
Shivshankar Menon

**Key Determinants for India's Future Trajectory in
International Affairs**
Uma Purushothaman

Chasing the Idea of Free Market in the International Political Sphere
Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

Foundational History of India's Diplomatic Corps
Jayant Prasad

A Region in a State of Flux
Vyjayanti Raghavan

Long View of Political History of Nepal
Rita Manchanda

**How History Plays a Recurring Role in the Present: The Story of Modern
India**
Janaki Srinivasan

**Irawati Karve: Portrait of an Anthropologist, Philosopher,
Woman, Wife and Mother**
Shanta Gokhale



THE BOOK REVIEW

Editors

Chandra Chari Uma Iyengar
Consultant Editor Adnan Farooqui
Assistant Editor Palak Hajela

Editorial Advisory Board

Romila Thapar
Ritu Menon
Chitra Narayanan
T.C.A. Srinivasa Raghavan
Mini Krishnan

DIGITAL CONSULTANT

Mallika Joseph

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Issue: ₹100

Annual Subscription (12 Issues)

Individual: ₹1500 / \$75 / £50

Institutional: ₹2500 / \$100 / £60

(inclusive of bank charges and postage)

Life Donors: ₹10,000 and above

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

Sandeep Barnawal
sandeepbarnawal@gmail.com

WEBSITE MANAGEMENT

mallikajoseph@gmail.com
Prasanta Nayak
prasanta.nayak@gmail.com

COMPUTER INPUTS, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Satish Kumar
Digital Empowerment Foundation

Please Address All Mail To:

The Book Review Literary Trust
89 National Media Centre
Shankar Chowk, Gurugram
122002, Haryana

Telephone:

9278089024

9811702695

Website:

www.thebookreviewindia.org

email:

chandrachari44@gmail.com

uma.iyengar@gmail.com

thebookreview1989@gmail.com

Advisory Board Founder Members

K.R. Narayanan

S. Gopal

Nikhil Chakravarty

Raja Ramanna

Meenakshi Mukherjee

K.N. Raj

Contents

IP Khosla	<i>Negotiating India's Landmark Agreements</i> by AS Bhasin	4
Ajay K Mehra	<i>Institutional Roots of India's Security Policy</i> edited by Milan Vaishnav	6
Shivshankar Menon	<i>War</i> by Bob Woodward	8
Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr	<i>The Cartel System of States: An Economic Theory of International Politics</i> by Avidit Acharya and Alexander Lee	10
Uma Purushothaman	<i>Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partners</i> by Sreeram Chaulia	11
Jayant Prasad	<i>Nehru's First Recruits: The Diplomats who Built Independent India's Foreign Policy</i> by Kallol Bhattacharjee	13
Parimal Maya Sudhakar	<i>China's Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy</i> by Peter Martin	14
Joyce Sabina Lobo	<i>The End of the Chinese Century? How Xi Jinping Lost the Belt and Road Initiative</i> by Bertil Lintner	16
Abidullah Baba	<i>The Crossroads: Kashmir—India's Bridge to Xinjiang</i> by Kulbhushan Warikoo	18
Priyanka Singh	<i>Chequered Past, Uncertain Future: The Story of Pakistan</i> by Tahir Kamran	19
Vyjayanti Raghavan	<i>India and Japan: A Natural Partnership in the Indo-Pacific</i> edited by Harsh V. Pant and Madhuchanda Ghosh	21
Bidyut Chakrabarty	<i>Understanding Fifty Years of Bangladesh Politics: Struggles, Achievements, and Challenges</i> by Harun-or-Rashid	23
Rita Manchanda	<i>Nepal: From Monarchy to Republic</i> by Lok Raj Baral	24
Azeemah Saleem	<i>The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation around the World</i> by Antony Loewenstein	26
MH Ilias	<i>Empire of Refugees: North Caucasian Muslims and the Late Ottoman State</i> by Valdimir Hamed-Troyansky	28
Parvin Sultana	<i>Song of Our Swampland</i> by Manzu Islam	30
Janaki Srinivasan	<i>The Identity Project: The Unmaking of a Democracy</i> by Rahul Bhatia	32
Amar Farooqui	<i>Empire Building: The Construction of British India, 1690-1860</i> by Rosie Llewellyn-Jones	33
Kishan S Rana	<i>Fighting Retreat: Winston Churchill and India</i> by Walter Reid	35
Satyaki Barua	<i>The Company of Violent Men: Despatches from the Bloody Fault Lines of the Subcontinent</i> by Siddharthya Roy	37
Amol Saghar	<i>Golwalkar: The Myth behind the Man, the Man behind the Machine</i> by Dharendra K Jha	38
Anirudh Deshpande	<i>The Empire's Biggest Enemy: Tilak</i> by Vaibhav Purandare	40
Jyotsna Kumari	<i>Poorna Swaraj—Constructive Programme: Its Meaning and Place</i> by MK Gandhi. Introduced by Dhananjay Rai	42
Shams Afroz	<i>Mafia Raj: The Rule of Bosses in South Asia</i> by Lucia Michelutti, Ashraf Hoque, Nicolas Martin, David Picherit, Paul Rollier, Arild E. Ruud, Clarinda Still	44
Laila Tyabji	<i>Mughal Glass: A History of Glassmaking in India</i> by Tara Desjardins	45
Soumyajit Brar	<i>Indian Millennials: Who are They, Really?</i> By AM Gautam	47
Sabah Hussain	<i>Religion & Women in India: Gender, Faith, and Politics, 1780s-1980s</i> by Tanika Sarkar	48
Sadia Hussain	<i>The Other #MeToos</i> edited by Iqra Shagufta Cheema	51
Shanta Gokhale	<i>Iru: The Remarkable Life of Irawati Karve</i> by Urmilla Deshpande, Thiago Pinto Barbosa	53