



The Materiality of Politics: Volume 1
The Technologies of Rule
Ranabir Samaddar

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Description

Through a series of historical illustrations, the author investigates the political aspects of violence, law, terror, protection, justice and post-colonial governance.

The Materiality of Politics uses a series of historical illustrations to reveal the physicality and underlying 'materiality' of political processes. The political subject of the study is the collective political actor poised against governmental rules for stabilizing order. Samaddar's tour de force propels readers through an account of blood, violence, bodies, controls, laws and conflicts. Politics is examined not as an abstraction, but as a 'real' field of dynamic factors rooted in everyday life.

Volume 1, subtitled 'The Technologies of Rule', discusses the techniques of modern rule which form the basis of the post-colonial Indian state. Beginning with the rule of law, the volume analyses the nature and manifestations of constitutional rule, the relation between law and terror and the construction of 'extraordinary' sovereign power. The author also investigates the methods of care, protection, segregation and stabilization by which rule proceeds. In the processes, the material core of the 'cultural' and the 'aesthetic' is exposed.

Readership: Ideal as supplementary material for students of politics and international relations, *The Materiality of Politics* is also a fascinating title for the general reader with a keen interest in current affairs.

Contents

Preface and Acknowledgements; Introduction: The Materiality of Politics; Colonial Constitutionalism; Law, Terror and the Colonial State; Governing Territory with the Right Size; Care, Protection and Power; Stable Rule and Unstable Population; Index of Names; Subject Index

About the Author

Ranabir Samaddar is the Director of the Calcutta Research Group and was earlier the Founder-Director of the Peace Studies Programme at the South Asia Forum for Human Rights, Kathmandu.

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