



Company of kinsmen enterprise and community in South Asian History (1700-1940) By Tirthanthankar Roy, Oxford University press, 2010, pages. 252. Rs 695

Tirthankar Roy teaches economic history in the London School of Economics and Political Science his research in Economic history of modern and early-modern South Asia; particular interests include industrialization, labour and employment, and historiography.

The book offers a detailed Description of economic organization in pre-colonial and colonial India describe structure around community based collectives and define rules of cooperation and its five dimensions Actor, Agent, Time, Purpose and Region. Leading Actors are Merchants/Bankers, Artisans, peasants, labour/workers and not least, the state. The regional angle is very important too far regions different on the composition of enterprises and globalization and colonization unfolded in an uneven way across space Roy describe the important link between enterprises and community is more than the implicit in business history. Allocation of sources resources of this region based on Guild, Caste, kinsmen and family. Group organized the supply of labour, Credit, and land Adam Smith's famous dictum," the division of labour is limited by the extend of the market". Division of labour was regulated by collectives. The collective's family firm and kinship ties are hardly useful in doing comparative economic history.

The systematic and strong association that we come across in India between marriage and profession and systematic use of marriage as a tool to serve the interests of a corporation, especially among merchants, bankers and skilled artisans was only weakly and randomly present in medieval China, Tokagawa Japan, pre modern Europe. The internal and external forces working on group changed over time. In particular, enormous expansion of foreign trade and investment in the region created new varied actors. Colonization and globalization in this way thrust big changes collective still rooted in older cultural-political traditions new types of market risks facing the migrants workers or migrant merchants were often met by drawing upon the bon of kin,' Imagined communities' formed, making use of the idioms of caste. Book describes modernity opened up conflicts between parts of tradition on the one hand and the impurities of global market exchange on other hand.

Secondly how did colonialism and globalization change the relationship author observing praise and real difference in the business organization between Europe and India. Indian goods and business practices embodied just as refined in some cases more refined skills than did counterparts in Europe. Guilds almost always formed by using personnel ties, in India. Thirdly India clarify the source an pattern of change in the modern word on this author describe Mitakshara and Dayabhaga were the two major smiritis followed in British Indian courts as codes of Hindu law and property. The eighteenth century introduces two new elements that affected the collective fist slow death of the imperial state and fragmentation of territorial power had had ambiguous effects on collectives the second the second element concerns state craft.

The study make an attempt to know as to how organizing and give concrete shape in early modern and colonial India author define the complete process of five dimensions actor, agent, time, peasants, labors, and state. The book provides the micro study of process related all five detentions. While the sections on workers and peasants are informative, the economic basis for sustaining these collectives is not as strong as the earlier material on merchants and artisans. Constraining effective contract enforcement to caste or community-based collectives introduced certain inefficiencies in the market and probably weakened economic development. Example of 'village community' or 'brotherhood' such type community at present in Haryana at present head of this community called 'Lamberdar' his functions are same to that period in revenue department. While the author briefly suggest to costs, this reader would have liked to learn more about the economic significance of costs and finance such as whether costs varied by collectives, and how regional and skill-based variation in collectives related to regional patterns of economic growth. Overall, it is a fascinating description of the organization of economic collectives in India, their interaction with the state, and their evolution with colonial rule. While social and cultural historians have written extensively about caste and community in South Asia, Roy offers a fresh perspective by bringing the institutional economics literature into the discussion. Book also proposed migration process with in India and overseas that linked based economic theory. Roy also provide general rule of migration and environment during journeys. Indirectly he provide the some knowledge related emergence of social leadership i.e. Sardar. But some important development not mentions in the book those affected the economical process in this main is related to railway industry that are the backbone of colonial Indian industry. And other is collectives affected by most prominent force nationalism and labour unions in 20th century.

Publishing of the books from many years tranquil this is very important scholarly work especially for the economic historians. The intensity of book is great and enough to affect the caliber of readers.

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