

# Global Political Thinkers

Series Editors

Harmut Behr

School of Geography Politics and Sociology

Newcastle University

Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Felix Rösch

School of Humanities

Coventry University

Coventry, UK

This Palgrave Pivot series presents ground-breaking, critical perspectives on political theory: titles published in this series present influential political thinkers on a global scale from around the world, with interpretations based on their original languages, providing synoptic views on their works, and written by internationally leading scholars. Individual interpretations emphasize the language and cultural context of political thinkers and of political theory as primary media through which political thoughts and concepts originate and generate. The series invites proposals for new Palgrave Pivot projects by and on authors from all traditions, areas, and cultural contexts. Individual books should be between 25,000 and 50,000 words long according to the Palgrave Pivot format. For more details about Palgrave Pivot, an innovative new publishing format from Palgrave Macmillan, please visit [www.palgrave.com/pivot](http://www.palgrave.com/pivot). Emphases shall be on political thinkers who are important for our understanding of:—the relation between individual and society and conceptualizations of both;—forms of participation and decision-making;—conceptualizations of political deliberation and discourse;—constructions of identity;—conceptualizations of the ‘human condition’ of politics;—ontologies and epistemologies of the political/of politics;—conceptualizations of social and political change and/or tradition; and—conceptualizations of political order, their rise and fall.

More information about this series at  
<http://www.palgrave.com/gp/series/15014>

Deepshikha Shahi

Kautilya and  
Non-Western IR  
Theory

palgrave  
macmillan

Deepshikha Shahi  
University of Delhi  
New Delhi, India

Global Political Thinkers

ISBN 978-3-030-01727-9

ISBN 978-3-030-01728-6 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-01728-6>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018956822

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s) 2019

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use. The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Cover illustration: © Melisa Hasan

This Palgrave Pivot imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG

The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

*For Col. Pradeep Kumar Gautam*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is hard to locate the originating point of an idea. But it is not hard to locate the people who play unanticipated roles in allowing that idea to eventually grow into a book. The story of this book is no different. And I express earnest thankfulness toward those people who at some stage appraised the ideational fractions of this book: a few of them are Subrat K. Mitra, Michael Liebig, Achin Vanaik, Navnita Chadha Behera, Balbir Singh Sihag, Felix Rösch, Patrick Olivelle, Amitav Acharya, Ole Wæver, Galia Golan, Ajay Parasram, Mariana Kalil, Saurabh Mishra, and Arun Gupto. Nevertheless, the book is dedicated to the untiring spirit of a seeker whose ‘tutored pragmatism’ and ‘untutored research’ have brilliantly combined in the process of strategic mainstreaming of Kautilya’s Arthaśāstra in today’s India: He is none other than Col. Pradeep Kumar Gautam!

# CONTENTS

1	Prelude	1
2	Kautilya's Arthaśāstra: A Philosophical Reconstruction	13
3	Kautilya Meets Buddha: Arthaśāstra Between the Realpolitik and Moralpolitik of Aśoka's Mauryan Empire	57
4	Kautilya Reincarnated: Steering Arthaśāstra Toward an Eclectic Theory of International Relations	95
5	Postlude	127
	Bibliography	145
	Index	161

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Deepshikha Shahi** is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Delhi, India. She finished her postdoctoral study from the Centre for Global Cooperation Research/Käte Hamburger-Kolleg, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. She is the author of *Advaita as a Global International Relations Theory* (2018). London and New York: Routledge.