

Panchayat Raj as the Basis of Indian Polity (1962)

This slim volume was the first book that Dharampalji authored. In an attempt to comprehend the immediate causes for the disoriented functioning of the Independent Indian state and society, in the early 1960s he began examining the proceedings of the Indian Constituent Assembly (1946-1949). That this investigation was entitled *Panchayat Raj as the Basis of Indian Polity* (with the subtitle *An Exploration into the Proceedings of the Constituent Assembly*) rendered explicit his prime concern: Very poignantly the published extracts of the Constituent Assembly debates highlight the failure of the Constitution to incorporate indigenous administrative and political structures, albeit mentioning them among the non-enforceable Directive Principles. This constitutional inadequacy, according to Dharampalji, had contributed towards incapacitating rural Indians from participating in the mainstream of post-Independence India. This volume has been reprinted in: Dharampal, *Collected Writings*, Other India Press: Mapusa 2000 (reissued 2003 & 2007), vol. IV, pp. 1-95. Recently, this book has been reprinted as part of the *Dharampal Classics Series* and edited by J.K. Bajaj and M.D. Srinivas, Vol. 1, Rashtrottana Sahitya: Bengaluru and Centre for Policy Studies: Chennai, 2021. Translations into Gujarati and Hindi were published in *Dharampal Samagra Lekhan* (11 vols.), edited by Indumati Katdare, Punarutthan Trust, Ahmedabad 2005 and 2007, respectively.