



The Arthashastra: Selections from the Classic Indian Work on Statecraft (Hackett Classics)

Patrick Olivelle, Mark McClish

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The only extant treatise on statecraft from classical India, the *Arthashastra* is an invaluable resource for understanding ancient South Asian political thought; it also provides a comprehensive and unparalleled panoramic view of Indian society during the period between the Maurya (320–185 BCE) and Gupta (320–497 CE) empires.

This volume offers modern English translations of key selections, organized thematically, from the *Arthashastra*. A general Introduction briefly traces the arc of ancient South Asian history, explains the classical Indian tradition of statecraft, and discusses the origins and importance of the *Arthashastra*. Thorough explanatory essays and notes set each excerpt in its intellectual, political, and cultural contexts.

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