

# **INDUSTRIAL**

# **GEOGRAPHY**

**A n I n d i a n P e r s p e c t i v e**

**INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY  
An Indian Perspective**

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*Dr. Tapas pal | Industrial Geography An Indian Perspective*

**Dr. Tapas Pal**

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## **Preface**

In writing *Industrial Geography*, Dr. Tapas Pal has made an extraordinary contribution to geographical scholarship. The book provides an overview of a very important subject area, reviewing a broad range of nineteenth and twentieth century theories, models and cases, and carrying the subject matter forward to the twenty-first century world of instantaneous global communication, nanotechnology, outsourcing, air freight and bulk container transport. Dr. Pal successfully links global scholarship to Indian realities and case studies, creating a book of broad general interest which can also be used as a text in Indian universities.



Dr. Pal is an exceptionally productive young scholar with a broad vision of human geography, including social, cultural and economic processes. His work on economic geography comes at a time when the old location theories of Von Thünen, Weber, Christaller and Lösch have become outmoded, but when strategic location is still immensely important for successful industrial and real estate development. Geography has not been marginalized. Instead it has been revitalized and rediscovered, most notably by distinguished economists like Paul Krugman, by new age business gurus like Michael Porter, and by broad-ranging social scientists like Saskia Sassen and Manuel Castells. “Location, location, location” has become a universal concern in the burgeoning global real estate development industry, and business and academia have become increasingly focused on the rapidly-changing network of “world cities”. The global rise of East Asia has irrevocably changed the world’s industrial geography, and further transformations are under way as India and other South and South-East Asian countries rise to prominence.

Economic geography, and especially industrial and transportation geography, will continue to change rapidly in the immediate future. Projects to expand the Panama and Suez Canals, to open up overland and maritime “Silk Roads”, to build new international oil and gas pipelines, to navigate the Arctic Ocean, and even to create a new inter-

oceanic canal through Nicaragua, will bring major changes in international trade routes and volumes. Meanwhile, and in almost total contradiction to these techno-utopian projects, there is a growing global consciousness of the unsustainability of current grand-scale development, with increasing pressures caused by environmental contamination, deforestation, soil erosion, urban sprawl, loss of biodiversity, and exhaustion of the cheapest and most accessible groundwater, fossil fuel and mineral reserves. There is more and more evidence of accelerating climate change associated with global warming, increased storm, flood and drought hazards, and rising sea levels. Thus, our current models of economic and industrial development are shown to be inadequate and new, more sustainable models are desperately needed.

Tapas Pal's *Industrial Geography* provides an excellent overview of the field, useful both to students and to fellow researchers. His book illustrates the breadth of the subject area and it will help inspire a new generation of scholars, policy-makers and business leaders.



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