

Contents

Introduction: time for a new <i>Orientalism</i> ?	1
PART I	
What is political theory meant to do?	7
1 The thick and thin of svaraj	9
2 Political theory and comparative political theory	22
3 What is Indian political theory?	35
PART II	
The inadequacy of transatlantic political theory	53
4 Theories of 'our' condition: Habermas and the post-secular turn	55
5 Theories of 'our' oppression: Žižek and the critique of human rights	81
6 Theories of 'our' liberation: Rawls, Sen, and the romance of global justice	101
7 An unkindness of theories: transatlantic Marxism, post-structuralism, and postcolonial ethnographies	124
PART III	
Preconditions for svaraj	147
8 Tradition, hybridity, equality: tarrying with the negative	149

9	Gandhi and Ambedkar	168
10	Dalit svaraj: the precondition for authentic Indian political theory	192
	Conclusion: toward a political theory of svaraj	207
	<i>Index</i>	216