Reinventing Social Democratic Development
Insights from Indian and Scandinavian Comparisons
Edited by Olle Törnquist and John Harriss
with Neera Chandhoke and Fredrik Engelstad

Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
Studies in Asian Topics, no. 58

First published in 2016 by NIAS Press
NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
Øster Farimagsgade 5, 1353 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Tel: +45 3532 9501 • Fax: +45 3532 9549
E-mail: books@nias.ku.dk • Online: www.niaspress.dk

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-87-7694-198-7 (hbk)
ISBN: 978-87-7694-200-7 (pbk)

Typeset in Arno Pro 12/14.4
Typesetting by NIAS Press

Cover design by NIAS Press, based on the artwork ‘Kvadrat’ (‘Square’) by Siw Lurås (copyright the artist)

Printed and bound in Great Britain
by Marston Book Services Limited, Oxfordshire
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This is a collective book. It grows out of a joint commitment to explore the possibility of reinventing social democracy, which has taken such a battering over the last forty years, while neoliberalism has dominated public policy. What might be done to counter tortuous development in the Global South as well as the growing inequalities in the North – in the context of new global freedoms and of patterns of economic growth that differ so much from those that fostered the rise of democratic socialism during industrialisation in the North?

To address these issues, concerned scholars who are advocates of social democracy in the North and as well as in the South had to come together, to read their arguments against each other with the aim of generating new insights and conclusions. This was a time consuming and challenging process, but also exciting and rewarding. Following three years of planning, the Norwegian Research Council provided funds that made it possible for us to meet in several workshops and prepare publication, while the contributors and coordinators used their own time and resources to carry on the work for over four years of writing, discussion, and many rounds of revision that led to what now appear as the chapters in this volume. These contributors are not only the authors, but also the many friends, colleagues and students who have helped with ideas, contacts and comments. All have been important, but special thanks to those who (in addition to the authors) participated in our four workshops: Alf Gunvald Nilsen, Amit Prakash, Anu Mai Köll, Bjørn Erik Rasch, Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya, Göran Djurfeldt, Harsh Mander, Irene Wennemo, Jan Heiret, Jörgen Hermansson, K.C. Suri, Kristian Stokke, Kuldeep Mathur, Lena Sommestad, Niraja Gopal Jayal, P.K. Michael Tharakan, Prabhu Mohapatra, Reetika Khera, Samir Das, Sanjay Reddy, Yogendra Yadav, Øyvind Bratberg, and Øyvind Østerud. We also owe special thanks for invaluable comments and inspiration
to Jeremy Seekings, K.K. George and Robin Jeffrey. We are grateful to Priyanka Chakravarty, Ingvild Mangerud and Sawera T. Mahmood for stalwart service in the organisation of our workshops, and for their editorial services to Ala Serafin and especially to David Stuligross. Finally, while John Harriss and Olle Törnquist have taken turns at the helm, both of this book and of the good ships Saskia and Sophia, they would not have been able to bring the project to land without the advice of Neera Chandhoke and Fredrik Engelstad.