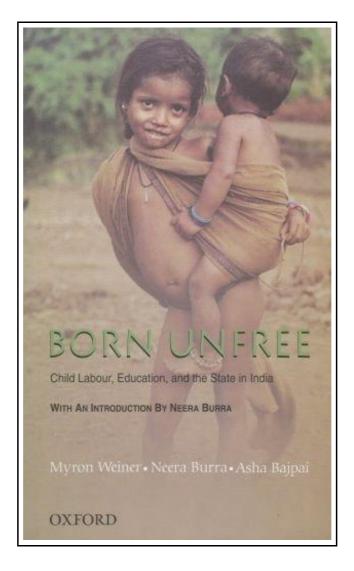
Born Unfree: Child Labour, Education, and the State in India



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Reviews

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(Ms. Vernie Stracke)

BORN UNFREE: CHILD LABOUR, EDUCATION, AND THE STATE IN INDIA



Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2006. Hard Cover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. It has been twenty years since the Indian Parliament passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Yet more children work as labourers in India than in any other country in the world. This Omnibus brings together three significant works on child labour focusing on the key factors which create an exploitative relationship between the economy and the children of the poor and the marginalized. In an Introduction written especially for this Omnibus, Neera Burra points out that there are definitional issues around the very concept of child labour and suggests that insights from feminist economics can help illuminate them; only then can we form an accurate picture of the role of child labour in the economy. In addition, she examines the strategy of different groups who have successfully worked against child labour. She argues that child labour can only be reduced when civil society and the state work together to get children out of work and into school. In The Child and the State, Myron Weiner argues that it is not Indias poverty which prevents the introduction of universal primary education and the banning of child labour, rather it is lack of political will and the belief systems prevalent in Indian society. Born to Work is based on first-hand field investigations into the employment of child labour in five industries: brassware, gem polishing, lock-making, pottery, and glass manufacture. Neera Burra documents the hazards that these children face and argues that working from a young age leads to a shortened working life. Thus, child labour is not only a consequence of poverty, but also a major cause of it. In Child Rights in India, Asha Bajpai provides a detailed overview of...

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