



# The Gender Politics of Development: Essays in Hope and Despair

By Shirin M. Rai

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In chapters on key issues of nationalism and nation-building, the third wave of democratization and globalization and governance, Rai argues that the gendered way in which nationalist statebuilding occurred created deep fissures and pressures for development. She goes on to show how women have engaged with institutions of governance in developing countries, looking in particular at political participation, deliberative democracy, representation, leadership and state feminism. Through this engagement, Rai claims, vital new political spaces have been created. Though Rai focuses in-depth on how these debates have played out in India, the book's argument is highly relevant for politics across the developing world.

This is a unique and compelling synthesis of gender politics with ideas about development from an authoritative figure in the field.

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## The Gender Politics of Development: Essays in Hope and Despair By Shirin M. Rai Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3891115 in Books
- Published on: 2008-03-01
- Released on: 2008-05-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .60" w x 5.44" l, .63 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

'Lucidly written, Shirin Rai's essays in this volume are insightful contributions to recent feminist debates on democratization and globalization.' Bina Agarwal, University of Delhi 'This rich collection is full of hope as well as despair. How should we evaluate women's increased visibility and political empowerment in the world today, when at the same time women's socio-economic marginalization continues or even increases? In this proof of her powerful scholarship, Shirin Rai combines discussions of key concepts in feminist and development studies, with studies of actual gender politics of development, from grass roots to global institutions.' Drude Dahlerup, Stockholm University 'The book provides an excellent and intelligent summary of the debates ... The Gender Politics of Development will no doubt be well thumbed as scholars of gender politics seek an authoritative and engaged guide to the literature . It manages to fall into that rare category of books that is theoretically astute and yet accessible to a wide readership, written with a critical mind and a passionate spirit.' Shireen Hassim, University of the Witwatersrand

#### About the Author

Shirin Rai is Professor in the department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick.

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