

natural resources. Political instability, chronic nationwide strikes caused by deadlock among the main political parties, and widespread corruption among the elite limit economic growth and levels of investment.

Since independence, the society and the economy in Bangladesh have changed dramatically. The rise of an export-oriented textile sector has been remarkable. Besides earning the major share of foreign exchange, it has created a vast pool of nonunionized female workers in the formal labor force. The activities of nongovernmental organizations, particularly micro-credit programs, have been successful in creating self-employment opportunities for some of the poor, but have not reached the most vulnerable and destitute population or had much impact on growth.

Baxter provides a succinct and valuable summary of the ancient and contemporary history of Bangladesh. However, readers interested in deeper analysis, especially of the country's recent economic problems and prospects, will find more useful studies undertaken by Bangladeshi think tanks, such as the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and the Center for Policy Dialogue.

TANWEER AKRAM
Columbia University

AHMED SHAFIQL HUQUE, GRACE
O. M. LEE, and ANTHONY B. L.
CHEUNG

**The Civil Service in Hong Kong:
Continuity and Change**

Hong Kong: Hong Kong University
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189 pages, \$32.50 (paperback)

The Civil Service in Hong Kong: Continuity and Change, the recent work of Ahmed Shafiqul Huque and his colleagues, provides a comprehensive overview of the organization, development, ever-changing problems, and prospects of the civil service

in Hong Kong. It offers an incisive and thought-provoking examination of civil service efforts to deal with change prior to and after transition. Huque probes efforts to improve the effectiveness of civil service in Hong Kong and how public services are managed despite changing roles and responsibilities.

The authors draw their commentary from government documents, scholarly insights of others, and detailed discussions of the crucial tasks and issues confronting the institution. The authors carefully blend these ingredients and deliver a first-rate account of how the civil service works today and how it has evolved over a period of time.

The book is divided into nine chapters. Chapter 1 is a broad introduction that demonstrates the need for such a study. References are made to prior research. The second chapter deals with the origin and history, which provides insights into the evolution and present stage of the civil service. Chapter 3 further explores changes due to the transition. Other chapters discuss pay determination in the broad context of management of performance rewards, methods of improving public sector management, the future role of senior civil servants, and so forth. The personnel system, the governance of service, and the position of the civil service in the political community are also covered.

The book bridges the gaps present in the existing literature by providing new information and analysis of hurdles faced by the civil service in Hong Kong. Although it contains a few minor factual errors, the book is a valuable source for academics, civil servants, professionals, and students; for researchers interested in the role of civil servants in changing societies; and for thoughtful readers interested in politics, public administration, and Asian affairs.

LINA DAWAR
City University of Hong Kong