



The agrarian question in India

C.P. Chandrasekhar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

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ABSTRACT:

Despite recognition of the importance of land reforms as a basis for independent development, the requisite measures to ensure the agrarian transition were not implemented in most parts of the country. This had implications not merely for livelihoods in rural areas but also for the pace of agricultural and non-agricultural growth. However, the linkages between agriculture, on the one hand, and industry and services, on the other, changed after the 1990s with adverse implications for the peasantry. Simultaneously, the trajectory of growth became one that sought to dispossess the peasantry of land—the basis of their livelihoods. The implications of that are only unfolding.

READING LIST:

Utsa Patnaik, "The Agrarian Question and the Development of Capitalism in India", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 21, Issue No. 18, 03 May, 1986.

V. K. Ramachandran (2011), "The state of agrarian relations in India today", *The Marxist*, January-June 2011.

Smita Gupta, "The Instability and Brutality of Capital: Displacement and Dispossession in India", mimeo, forthcoming in Festschrift in honour of Utsa Patnaik.

Michael Levien (2012) "The land question: special economic zones and the political economy of dispossession in India", *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 39:3-4, 933-969.