

Comparative Development Experience of Land Reform in India and China: A Historical Reappraisal

Nidhi Lakhotra

*Assistant Professor, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Evening College,
University of Delhi*

This article aims to compare the strategies and discourse on development of two Asian giants i.e. India and China. Development trajectories of both the countries are often compared against the background of Industrialization, comparison of democracy vs. authoritarian rule between socialist and mixed economy and human resource indicators. Here, comparison is done in land reforms of both the countries during their nation building process till 1960s. The comparison of these indicators are done to highlight if both countries started development process among similarities and dissimilarities why does it breed stark difference in development result in 1960s. Both created the initial condition for development and opted for gradualism. The differences are mostly in polity or regime type. India under the umbrella of democracy supersedes China in managing conflict, cleavages and various civil society demands. India's democratic weaknesses lie in its capacity to implement its decisions strongly because it is challenged by institutional constraints and democratic system.

Development in India and China is followed by different trajectories. The background on which development forces started in both the countries has some commonalities. In each case the purpose and role of state was significant. It has been viewed that the role of state is to bring about economic, political and social development. There were many similarities in the circumstances and condition in which both the countries started their development process. The countries started their role of economic development which include vast similarities in terms of geographical areas, regional imbalances, large population, agriculture based economy, poverty, weak infrastructure and unequal access to national resources. Both India and China were characterized by traditional agriculture society. A big chunk of population was dependable on agriculture which was characterized by small land holdings; ownership of land was on unequal basis and widespread labor force. To quote Malenbaum,