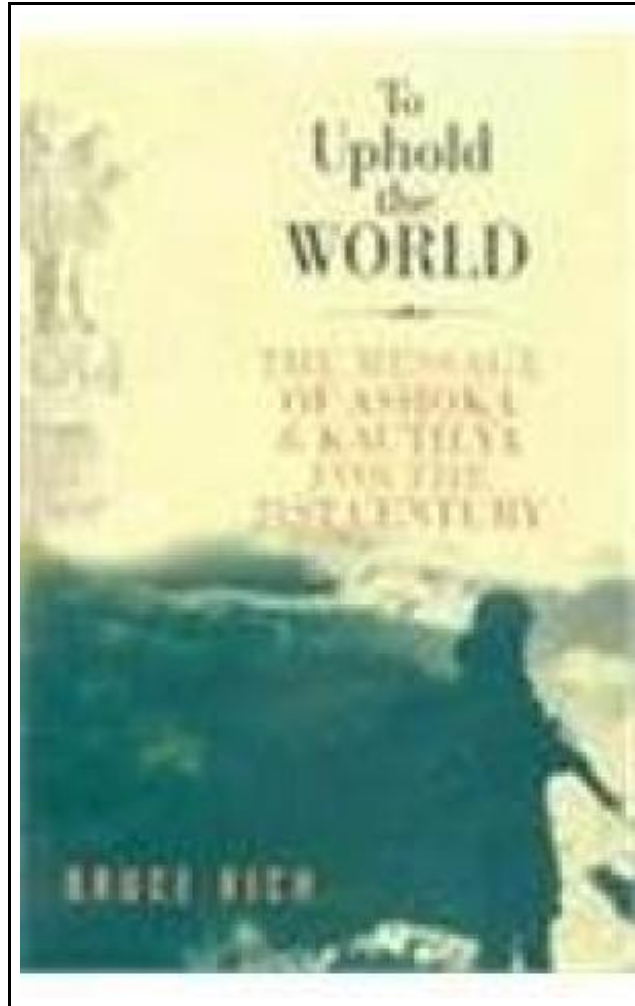


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(Prof. Patsy Blanda)

TO UPHOLD THE WORLD: THE MESSAGE OF ASHOKA AND KAUTILYA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



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Penguin/Viking, New Delhi, India, 2008. Hard Cover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, we cannot escape the turbocharged global economy we live in. Yet the very forces that link all of us have accelerated the dissolution of traditional sources of social authority and historical identity, spurring increasingly violent counter movements. We realize traditional national politics and the reorganization of all social values around markets cannot hold together the six and a half billion inhabitants of this small planetthe world needs a new global order based on a common global ethic and global justice. To Uphold the World is Bruce Rich's deeply illuminating and thought-provoking exploration of such an alternative. His search to found a civil and international order on principles that transcend the goals of pure economic efficiency and amoral realpolitik is inspired by the writings and lives of two of the greatest figures of ancient IndiaAshoka and Kautilya. Ashoka provides a unique example of a world rulerhis empire at the time was arguably the world's largest, richest and most powerful multi-ethnic statewho tried to put into practice a secular state ethic of non-violence and reverence for life, which he also extended to international relations. Kautilya, one of history's greatest political geniuses, wrote the world's first treatise on political economy, the Arthashastra, which proclaims accumulation of material riches as the chief underpinning of human society. Both addressed the questions of political realism and idealism, the role of force and violence in international relations, and the tension between economics and ethics. Through the retelling of mythical and historical accounts, Bruce Rich distils the message of Ashoka and Kautilya to help us uphold our world in the twenty-first century. A unique blend of historical and political narrative combined with reflections on contemporary...



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