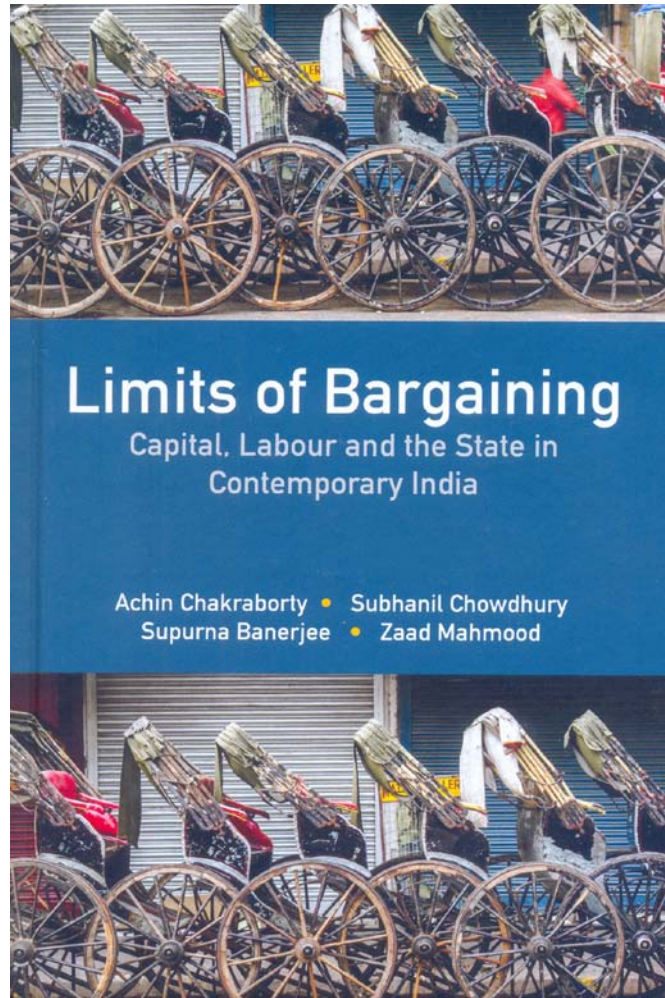


# Limits of Bargaining

## Capital, Labour and the State in Contemporary India

Achin Chakraborty, Subhanil Chowdhury,  
Supurna Banerjee and Zaad Mahmood



This book is an original addition to the political economy analysis of capital-labour relations in the organised industrial sector in the context of economic liberalisation in India. The book analyses the dynamics of capital-labour bargaining process in the context of the changing nature of the state and market as a result of the adoption of policies of liberalisation and globalisation for the last two and half decades. It examines the nature of collective bargaining and analyses the underlying structural-political conditions that shape the capital-labour relations.

Based on original empirical material from West Bengal a state long considered to be pro-labour, the book presents bargaining between capital and labour as endogenous to the interplay of the triad of the market, technology and institutions of the state. The analytical point of departure for the book is the nature of collective bargaining in the organised sector of West Bengal since liberalisation. It traces the decline and shifts in the nature of collective bargaining through an in-depth study based on a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. It illustrates the everyday interactions between labour and the management, between different unions and sometimes even outside actors that shape collective bargaining, and highlights the negotiations, appropriations and compromises that shape bargaining at operational level.