"For years unreadable and inaccurate translations have discouraged general readers and Sanskrit-less scholars of India from reading the classics, though this work is central to anyone’s understanding of Indian history, law, politics, economics, society, religion, and much more. At last we have a translation of extraordinary clarity and erudition that makes this fascinating and crucially important not merely accessible. The prose is transparent, clear, devoid of jargon or highly technical language; it meticulously detailed sanskrit clarify the most abstruse points. All of Patrick Olivelle’s translations are first-rate, but this is his great masterpiece.”

—Wendy Doniger, Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School

"Patrick Olivelle’s fluent and illuminatingly annotated translation will be a revelation to all those interested in ancient India and in the organization of ancient states more generally. By offering a powerful counter to the popular notion of an ancient India focused only on transcendent religious speculations, it significantly complicates and deepens our picture of that place and time.

—Albrecht Wezler, Emeritus Professor of Sanskrit, University of Hamburg, Germany

"Patrick Olivelle, better qualified for the job than any other Indologist by decades of experience in translating ancient and medieval Indian texts, has succeeded in preparing a richly annotated translation that is both readable and utterly reliable. It not only outdoes all its predecessors but will also stand unchallenged the test of time.”

—Stephanie W. Jamison, Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures and of Indo-European Studies, the University of California, Los Angeles

"For years unreadable and inaccurate translations have discouraged general readers and Sanskrit-less scholars of India from reading the classics, though this work is central to anyone’s understanding of Indian history, law, politics, economics, society, religion, and much more. At last we have a translation of extraordinary clarity and erudition that makes this fascinating and crucially important not only outdoes all its predecessors but will also stand unchallenged the test of time.”

—Thomas R. Trautmann, Professor Emeritus of History and Anthropology, University of Michigan

"Our understanding of this significant text, the first in close to half a century, takes into account a number of important advances in our knowledge of the texts, inscriptions, and archeological and historical remains from the period in Indian history to which the d.i.t. belongs.

The d.i.t. is what we would today call a scientific treatise. It codifies a body of knowledge handed down in expert traditions and is specifically interested in two things: first, how a king can expand his territory, keep enemies at bay, enhance his external power, and amass riches; second, how a king can best organize his state bureaucracy to consolidate his internal power, to suppress internal enemies, to expand the economy, to enhance his neural activities, to keep law and order, and to settle disputes among his subjects. The d.i.t. stands alone: there is nothing like it before and there is nothing like it after.

King, Governance, and Law in Ancient India

K A U T I L Y A ’ S  A R T H A Ś A ī T R A

Patrick Olivelle

A New Annotated Translation by

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com