



To Uphold the World: The Message of Ashoka and Kautilya for the 21st Century

By Bruce Rich

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 planet. The 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 India: Ashoka and Kautilya. Ashoka provides a unique example of a world ruler; his empire at the time was arguably the world's largest, richest and most powerful multi-ethnic state who tried to put into practice a secular state ethic of non-violence and reverence for life, which he...



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