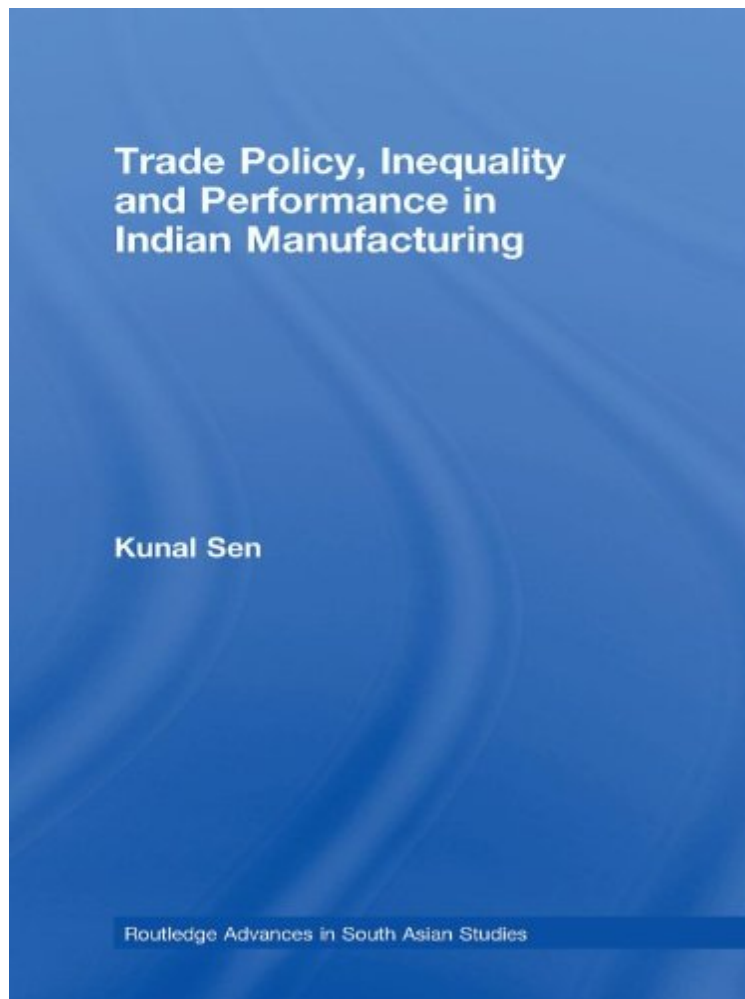


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Trade Policy, Inequality and Performance in Indian Manufacturing (Routledge Advances in South Asian Studies)

Kunal Sen

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The relationship between trade policy and economic performance is one of the oldest controversies in economic development. In recent years, there has been a revival of interest in the debate on the implications of trade reforms for productivity growth and domestic pricing behaviour due in part to the current phase of wide-spread trade liberalisation in developing countries and in part to developments in economic theory, notably endogenous growth theories and

theories of imperfect competition. Also, there has been considerable interest in whether trade reforms can lead to higher wage inequality and regional inequality in developing countries. Both in academic and policy arenas the interest in international trade as a powerful positive force for reducing poverty in low-income countries has increased. In this book, the author examines the implications of trade reforms with specific reference to the Indian manufacturing sector. In particular, it explores the evolution of regional and wage inequality, employment, productivity and prices from the import substitution phase of the 1970s to the period of radical reforms of the 1990s. The strength of the book is the careful and systematic examination of the various aspects of the trade-development nexus using rigorous empirical methods and a detailed data-set of Indian industries from 1975 to 2000. Economists in general and South Asian scholars in particular will find this thorough study interesting and useful.

About the Author Kunal Sen is Professor of Development Economics and Policy at The Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, UK. He specialises in macroeconomics and international trade, with over a decade of experience in research on economic reforms in India. Among his many publications are *International Competitiveness, Investment and Finance: A Case-study of India* (with A.G. Kumar and R. Vaidya, 2003), *Saving, Investment and Growth in India* (with P. Athukorala, 2002), and *Economic Restructuring in East Asia and India: Perspectives on Policy Reform* (with P. Agrawal, S. Gokarn, V. Mishra, and K.S. Parikh, 1995).