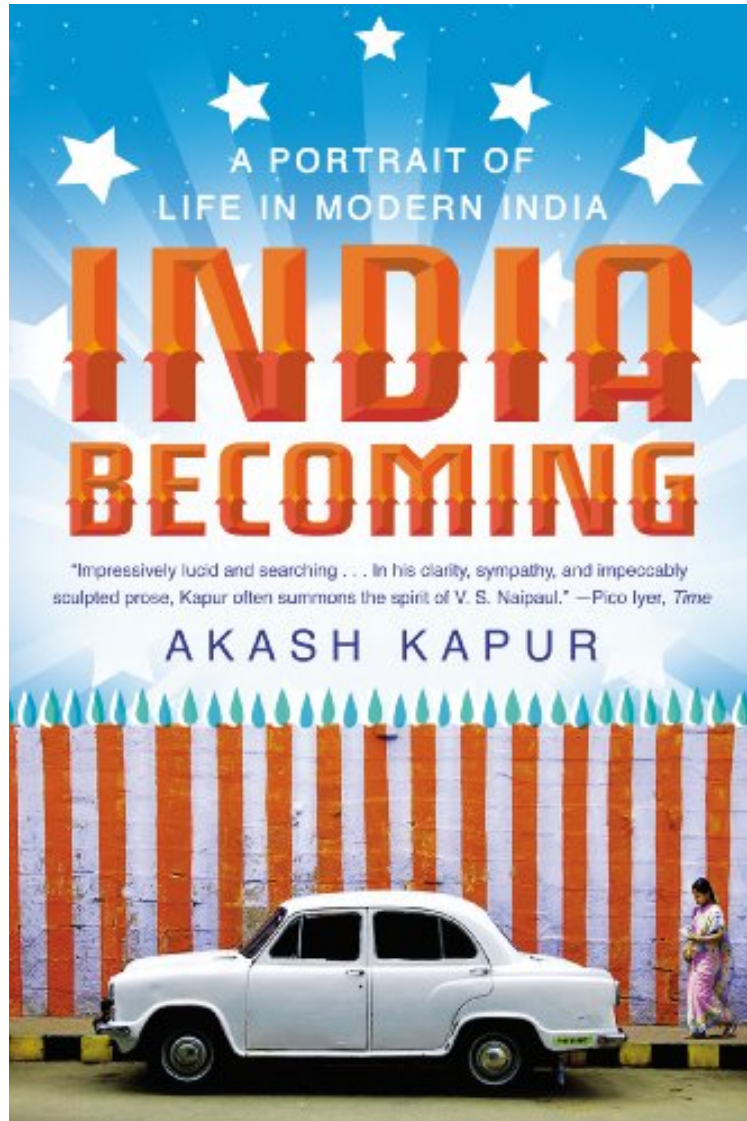


(Free and download) India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India

## India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India

*Akash Kapur*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#749692 in eBooks 2012-03-15 2012-03-15 File Name: B005GSZHW2 | File size: 18.Mb

**Akash Kapur : India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Personal Look at India's Economic Miracle How It Cuts Both Ways By Meg Cox Bought this book because I'm going to be traveling to India next year and I'm glad I did. Kapur's vantage point is a fascinating one, writing as a native who got highly educated in the U.S. but came back home to live and raise a family. The reader sees how dramatically India has changed through his eyes. Overall, the major point is about how technology and corporate growth are changing the country, much is gained but a great deal is lost, and the

author explores this poignant examples. He shows us what is lost in the way of human connection and tradition: Kapur introduces us to people thrilled with their new career possibilities and others devastated by the lost of farmland and livelihoods. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-written By DeeAreSea This is an ethnographic study of how the lives of common people are being impacted by contemporary economic development in India. Kapur's writing style draws the reader into the lives of his characters as they cope with unique challenges. All the characters in this book are persons who believe in the new emerging India and are committed to making successful lives for themselves. Beneath the stories of the lives of these characters, one can sense Kapur's own odyssey of re-settling in India after living many years in the United States. Although all the characters are strong-willed, some are naive, some are ill-prepared and some are very wise, their stories reveal how contemporary economic developments are creating new opportunities and new challenges for some, while affecting the lives of everyone. The basic take away from this book is that urban India is expanding. That is, people from the nearby villages with some education and drive are moving into the cities, and concurrently, cities are encroaching into neighboring villages. Most of these people from the villages are ill-prepared to handle the modes of city life, and their cultural norms that once protected them in the village are a hindrance to successfully negotiate the challenges of city life. Further, as cities intrude into neighboring villages, village life and village modes are breaking and the solitary beauty of rural India is being displaced by environmental chaos. A secondary underlying theme is that the market economy is not being managed by good government, the rule of "gundagari" has replaced yesterday's "license raj." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hm m m m m By Vivek Agarwal A variable book Detailed views of lives of people who have been affected by the Americanization of Indian culture and work ethics and opportunities The far reaching impacts of the new culture and New opportunities The ones who got left behind And the some who just don't want to be a part of this new revolution So in effect a detailed look at the changing mindset and lives of a few subjects whom the author follows and builds their life story around and in his book It's good But a little too detailed in terms of introspection from that subjective view I couldn't finish the book Maybe someone else will

A New Republic Editors' and Writers' Pick 2012 A New Yorker Contributors' Pick 2012 A portrait of incredible change and economic development, of social and national transformation told through individual lives The son of an Indian father and an American mother, Akash Kapur spent his formative years in India and his early adulthood in the United States. In 2003, he returned to his birth country for good, eager to be part of its exciting growth and modernization. What he found was a nation even more transformed than he had imagined, where the changes were fundamentally altering Indian society, for better and sometimes for worse. To further understand these changes, he sought out the Indians experiencing them firsthand. The result is a rich tapestry of lives being altered by economic development, and a fascinating insider's look at many of the most important forces shaping our world today. Much has been written about the rise of Asia and a rebalancing of the global economy, but rarely does one encounter these big stories with the level of nuance and detail that Kapur gives us in *India Becoming*. Among the characters we meet are a broker of cows who must adapt his trade to a modernizing economy; a female call center employee whose relatives worry about her values in the city; a feudal landowner who must accept that he will not pass his way of life down to his children; and a career woman who wishes she could "outsource" having a baby. Through these stories and many others, Kapur provides a fuller understanding of the complexity and often contradictory nature of modern India. *India Becoming* is particularly noteworthy for its emphasis on rural India—a region often neglected in writing about the country, though 70 percent of the population still lives there. In scenes reminiscent of R. K. Narayan's classic works on the Indian countryside, Kapur builds intimate portraits of farmers, fishermen, and entire villages whose ancient ways of life are crumbling, giving way to an uncertain future that is at once frightening and full of promise. Kapur himself grew up in rural India; his descriptions of change and modernization are infused with a profound—at times deeply poignant—firsthand understanding of the loss that must accompany all development and progress. *India Becoming* is essential reading for anyone interested in our changing world and the newly emerging global order. It is a riveting narrative that puts the personal into a broad, relevant and revelational context.

"This takes, wisely, a humble approach: instead of trying to encapsulate the entirety of India's changes, it follows a few lives along the idiosyncratic ways they develop. For people who savored Katherine Boor's *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*—Evan Osnos, *newyorker.com*" [A] lucid, balanced new book . . . Kapur is determinedly fair-minded, neither an apologist nor a scold, and he is a wonderfully empathetic listener.—The New York Times Book Review "Kapur's strength is in letting his characters display the ambiguity that many feel about the ongoing change. . . . Kapur offers a corrective to a simplistic, new, happy narrative of a rising India.—The Economist "There are many virtues of Akash Kapur's beautifully sketched portrait of modern India . . . The book inhabits parts of India we do not explore often enough, the India of the south and of the transforming countryside. Mostly, it takes us into the minds and hearts of Indians seeking to adapt to a society changing at disconcerting speed. . . . The book reads like a novel. . . . Kapur's skill is to get people talking and to weave their stories into a necessarily messy debate about

India's future."—The Financial Times "Impressively lucid and searching . . . In his clarity, sympathy and impeccably sculpted prose, Kapur often summons the spirit of V.S. Naipaul." —Pico Iyer, Time "Kapur himself, with one leg in the East and one in the West, is an excellent ambassador to explain the dynamic of change in India, what the nation is becoming. Any reader who would like to understand the country better would do well to give him a read."—Daily Beast "Kapur has a fluency that outsiders—even those of us with a genetic tie—lack."—The New Republic "This is a remarkably absorbing account of an India in transition - full of challenges and contradictions, but also of expectations, hope, and ultimately optimism."—Amartya Sen "A wonderful writer: a courageously clear-eyed observer, an astute listener, a masterful portraitist, and a gripping storyteller. Kapur's voice is as sure and as intimate as his subject is chaotic and immense, and he proves himself the perfect guide to the enthralling promise and the terrifying menace of a society in the throes of colossal, epochal, all-encompassing change."—Philip Gourevitch, author of *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Your Families* "Marvelous . . . Kapur shows how the old rural cycle of the south Indian village depicted and romanticized by R. K. Narayan is fracturing and breaking apart to reveal a very new, more unstable world where the old certainties are disappearing and everything is up for grabs. Sharp-eyed, insightful, skillfully sketched and beautifully written, *India Becoming* is the remarkable debut of a distinctive new talent."—William Dalrymple, author of *Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in Modern India* "Akash Kapur lives in and writes out of an India that few writers venture into. Curious, suspicious of received wisdom, and intellectually resourceful, [Kapur is] one of the most reliable observers of the New India."—Pankaj Mishra, author of *Temptations of the West: How to Be Modern in India, Pakistan, Tibet, and Beyond* "Through a series of deft character sketches, Akash Kapur captures the contradictions of life in modern India—between city and country, technology and aesthetics, development and the environment, greed and selflessness, individual fulfillment and community obligation. His writing is fresh and vivid; his perspective empathetic and appealingly non-judgmental."—Ramachandra Guha, author of *India after Gandhi* "Beautifully written . . . Akash Kapur celebrates the gains and mourns the losses, conveying a complex story through the ups and downs of the lives of some fascinating individual women and men."—Kwame Anthony Appiah, author of *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers* "India today is in the midst of profound change and Akash Kapur captures the impact of that change on the lives of ordinary Indians with a narrative that avoids all cliché, platitudes, and simplifications."—Gurcharan Das, author of *India Unbound* "A fascinating look at the transformation of India, with broader lessons on the upside and downside of progress."—Booklist (starred) "[A] Lively, anecdotal look at the people who have been vastly changed by the entrepreneurial explosion in India. . . . An honest, conflicted glimpse of a country."—Kirkus "About the Author Akash Kapur is the former writer of the Letter from India column for the International Herald Tribune, which has been picked up in the Week in section of the New York Times on occasion. He has also written for the Atlantic, the Economist, the New Yorker, and the New York Times Book Review. He holds a BA in Social Anthropology from Harvard University, and a doctorate in Law from Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. He consults on development and media law for a number of organizations, including the United Nations. He lives outside Pondicherry in Southern India.