

BOOK REVIEW

Envisioning a Just and Sustainable Society

Harsh Dobhal*

Ashish Kothari and K J Joy (eds.). 2017. *Alternative Futures: India Unshackled*. Authors Upfront: New Delhi, ISBN: 9788193392478; pp. 704, INR 995



Alternative Futures is a compelling collection of thought-provoking essays on how India's several political, economic, environmental, and social challenges might play out towards a hopeful future. The editors Ashish Kothari and K J Joy, however, do not intend for the volume to serve as some sort of a road map for future-oriented action. Rather, *Alternative Futures*, as Shiv Visvanathan underlines in the foreword as well, should be best understood as affirming Gandhi's notion of the ashram as a laboratory for 'futuristic, ethical and scientific experiments'.

The 35 essays by 50 writers are clubbed under five broad sections—ecological, political, economic, socio-cultural, and concluding perspectives. While taking a full stock of the varied visions, imaginations, and insights will be impossible in this limited review, one could, nonetheless, dwell upon some of the striking viewpoints and perspectives that suggest a general conceptual slant in the volume. For one—unsurprisingly, perhaps—many

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