**Abstract**

How do citizens of the world's largest democracy make claims on the state? Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner will explore the processes through which rural citizens of India seek to secure public services from the state. Her research helps shed light on the understanding of distributive politics (who gets what from the state) and democratic practice (who participates and how). Drawing on fieldwork in the state of Rajasthan, she documents various claim-making practices. Socioeconomic status or caste category cannot alone explain why different groups differ in how they make claims on the state. Kruks-Wisner argues, rather, that claim-making practice is shaped by the degree to which a person is exposed to people and settings across social and spatial cleavages. Expanded social and economic opportunities go together with the expanded knowledge necessary for citizen-state engagement, increasing both the likelihood and breadth of claim-making practice.
Claiming the State should have a sizeable impact in reorienting studies of political participation towards life between elections, and in how we think of the practice of citizenship in contemporary India.' Tariq Thachil, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee. Book Description. Explores the conditions that shape whether and how citizens in rural India make claims on the state for social welfare. Book Description. The book's central questions - who makes claims on the state for social welfare, how, and why? - will be important to those interested in welfare provision, citizenship practice, “Electoral bonds have made political parties completely beholden to unaccounted money, which could even be foreign money or money from dubious sources,” said Jagdeep Chhokar, the former head of India’s top business school and the founder of the Association for Democratic Reforms, a group that researches elections. For those in India worried about anonymous money in politics, the process for changing the laws has offered little reassurance that the new measures are an improvement. System Overhaul.