Preface

Gita Sud de Surie

The genesis of this book was a visit to India in August 1992, a visit that was momentous in shaping events in my life for the next ten years. I relocated to India to study Indian organizations for my doctoral work in 1993. After completing my doctoral work in 1996, I stayed on as an academic in India until the spring of 2001. This prolonged immersion in India, both as a researcher and academic, provided me with a unique advantage – a position from which I could be an insider. Consequently, I was able to experience first hand the structure of Indian organizations and industry linkages with other institutions, both locally and globally, and to study their evolution during the period after economic liberalization was initiated.

In this book, I aim to trace the evolution and internationalization of Indian firms over the last decade. I focus on the role of knowledge in organizational evolution and in economic development. In addition, I hope to capture the dynamism and spirit underlying these changes by adopting a lens that allows for multifaceted perspectives. Using organizational data from my field studies, I examine the nature of these microeconomic and organizational changes and their implications at the macro level. These studies suggest that these micro changes engendered an understanding and reinterpretation of national identity, aligning it with those prevailing in industrialized countries.

I am deeply indebted to the organizations that participated in the initial study and permitted subsequent rounds of interviews at various intervals since 1993, in 2003, and most recently in January 2007, and to all interviewees too numerous to name individually. I would like to thank especially all managing directors/organizational heads in India who made the studies possible, and to the Confederation of Indian Industries, the Consulate General of India in New York, and state industry ministries who helped facilitate the work.

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