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Auteur: Professor Paul R. Brass
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Samenvatting (Summary)

Charan Singh and Congress Politics, 1967 to 1987, the third and final volume in the trilogy of The Politics of Northern India, begins with the dramatic political event of the fall of the Congress in the most critical state of UP and the formation of the first non-Congress government. This event was of the utmost concern to Indira Gandhi, for she could not rule the country without a firm political base in the most populous state of the country. Insofar as Charan Singh was concerned, it marked the beginning of his rise to power in the state and the beginning also of the dramatic and complicated struggle between him and Indira Gandhi. The current volume, like the previous volumes, is based upon the author's access to all the critical documents in Charan Singh's political life, an access that was provided to him by Charan Singh personally, and which he has used specifically for this work on his political life.

Recensie(s) (Reviews)

A well-researched book by Paul Brass...The book recreates unique persona of the former Prime Minister of the country Chaudhary Charan Singh who had the unsurpassed following of the agrarian classes. The book revolves around the politics of his period with a broader perspective on major issues, controversies and development, especially in Uttar Pradesh. It narrates about the very beginning of the political career of the former PM - the man who was known for his principles and self-belief...The book has an elaborate description of the politics and social orders of his period with special reference to Hindu-Muslim relations...The book very well describes Charan Singh's understanding of the system, his fight against it...[The book] makes an excellent interesting read for people interested in politics and who want to know about the State of the largest electorate. -- **Sahara Times**

This book presents the biography of Chaudhuri Charan Singh, who went on to become prime minister for very brief period ...and twice served as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh during his long political career in that state...The book follows the early career of a man of principles and pride, a dedicated nationalist who loved his country while being critical of the leaders who ran the government...The book explains Charan Singh's role as a crusader for the backward castes of northern India and whose interests he always promoted and in whose advancement, he played the most important role. -- **Organiser**

The book, which is the result of extensive research of documents written by Charan Singh, throws light on hitherto unexplored aspect of his personality...His penchant for taking copious notes of political events could only be matched by an archivist's enthusiasm for meticulous record-keeping. All these documents helped Brass to unravel the mystery behind the personality and events of the most tumultuous phase of the republic...The book is a must read for those keen to know about the emergence of anti-congressism in UP politics through the evolution of one of the most charismatic leader of peasant-proprietary class in India. -- **Governance Now**

Based on the personal papers of former Prime Minister Charan Singh, An Indian Political Life by Paul R Brass comes at the right time...[The book] is travails of an ambitious Congress politician at the time when leaders like Jawahar Lal Nehru, Govind Ballabh Pant, Rafi Ahmed and Lal Bahadur Shastri dominated Uttar Pradesh's politics...This book is a primer on the realities of politics and power at state and district levels. -- **The Indian Express**

This book traces the life of Charan Singh, a politician who played a decisive role in the politics of Uttar Pradesh and later on national platform... Brass brings forth the various facets of Charan Singh in an impartial manner. -- **The Tribune**

Prof Paul R Brass brings out in an encyclopedic study of his [Chaudhary Charan Singh] life and times...The first of a proposed three volumes, Brass's monumental work is based on a wide range of sources spread over almost half a century from the time he first met Singh and became a keen student of north Indian politics. But the sheer scale and detail of the volume leaves it as one mostly of interest to scholars. Yet, in the present-day cynical and dismal national mood, Singh has as much relevance as he had in his lifetime. -- **The Week**

The first volume of Paul R Brass's brilliant biography of Charan Singh and Congress politics in UP from 1937 to 1961, written after a rare access to private papers of the late leader ... The book chronicles the fight around land, the distress it caused to peasants and how compensation was always contentious. -- **The Times of India**

Brass must be complimented for pointing to Indian scholars, a neglected terrain in their academic ventures... The book fills the vacuum. The book puts the life, work and character of Charan Singh in the right perspective. -- **Economic & Political Weekly, Vol 47, 11 August 2012**

This book on Charan Singh's political life couldn't have come at a better time-with agriculture in a deep crisis, acquisition of farmland for industry becoming so controversial and issues of corruption and governance on centerstage. -- **Professor Sudha Pai, in Outlook**