Modern works on ancient Hindu polity have generally restricted themselves to an analysis of political and administrative institutions of North India. However, South Indian Polity by Dr. T.V. Mahalingam, gives a comprehensive account of the political set-up in South India from the earliest times to the fall of Vijayanagara. But in a volume of such a nature it would not be possible to give a detailed account of the systems that prevailed in different periods under the dynasties which ruled in the different parts of South India. So far as Karnataka is concerned, there is no published work which exclusively deals with polity under any of its several ruling dynasties.

It is true that the Chalukya polity does not differ in essentials from the North Indian pattern or from the administrative system which prevailed in the contemporary South Indian kingdoms. Still in its actual working it exhibited many features definitely its own.

The success of the Chalukya administration was due to the tradition inherited from the previous dynasties like the Rāṣhtrakūtas and the ability of the Chalukya kings who were well-trained for their functions. They
were assisted by capable ministers and officers, many of whom had distinguished themselves by loyal and devoted service. They also had a large number of feudatories who by and large rendered faithful service to their suzerain. This trained monarchy and devoted aristocracy formed the superstructure of an administrative hierarchy which had as its base popular assemblies in villages, agrahāras, towns and the groups of villages and towns known as nāduś.

For such a study there are not only numerous inscriptions of this period but also contemporary literary works like Mānasollāsa. Earlier writers on polity who did not have access to the inscriptions published recently, relegated this work to the background on the ground that it was merely a repetition of the older ideas on ancient polity. But judged from the testimony of the huge mass of epigraphs, this work on polity is found to be of great value. We cannot brush it aside as a mere restatement of earlier works. One of the findings of this study is the resuscitation of -- Mānasollāsa as an important source for the study of the Chālukya polity.