Contents

List of illustrations vi Acknowledgements ix

Part 1 Introduction

I	The problem	3
2	The region: Girvi, Phaltan Taluka, and	
	Western Maharashtra	15

Part 2 Aspects of political stratification

3	Political arenas and the political class	29
4	Caste status and distribution	49
5	Land, labour, credit, and share capital	59
6	Descent groups and affinal networks	77

Part 3 Political alliances

7	Vertical alliances	101
8	Horizontal alliances	127
9	Alliances and political stratification	147
10	Conclusions	162

Map of main Girvi settlement area 179

Appendix 185 Notes 188 References 195 Index 203