



## The Emergency: A Personal History

By Coomi Kapoor

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In June 1975, Coomi Kapoor was a young reporter at the Indian Express in Delhi, when Indira Gandhi declared a state of Emergency, suspending civil liberties and sending opposition leaders to prison. In the dark days that followed, she personally experienced the full fury of the misrule her journalist husband was imprisoned on flimsy charges under the draconian MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act), and her brother-in-law, Jana Sangh MP Subramanian Swamy, was on the run to evade arrest, while her family faced constant threats and harassment from the security forces. Meanwhile, Indira Gandhi, her son Sanjay and his coterie unleashed a reign of terror that saw forced sterilizations, brutal beautification drives that left thousands of people homeless overnight, and students and other innocent people jailed without cause or trial, while the press was firmly muzzled under strict censorship rules.

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## The Emergency: A Personal History By Coomi Kapoor Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3084388 in Books
- Published on: 2015-06-01
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 5.83" h x 1.42" w x 8.94" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 350 pages

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#### About the Author

Coomi Kapoor has been a political journalist for more than four decades, and is currently consulting editor at the Indian Express, where her popular column Inside Track , appears on Sundays.

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