

Ethnic Conflict and Development: The Case of Fiji

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This book examines the link between ethnic conflict and development. It provides a detailed background to the evolution of the communal strife in Fiji, showing in particular the role of ethnic entrepreneurs and out bidders instigating latent ethnic fears for political purposes. The work argues that the introduction of democratic politics in multi-ethnic states requires special institutions which do not cultivate zero-sum rivalry over control of the state and its resources. In Fiji open ethnic competition led to the seizure of power by one ethnic group over the other. An ethnically-inspired military government oversaw the infringement of basic human rights and the enthronement of a new apartheid regime in the international system. This book describes the political, social, psychological, and economic impact of communal conflict in multi-ethnic states as illustrated by the case of Fiji.

Contents

The making of a multi-ethnic mosaic; The politics of representation, land and jobs; Erosion of the balance and an attempt at a government of national unity; The elections of 1987 and military intervention; The coup d'etat, racism and abridgement of human rights; The grievances and demands of Fijians and non-Fijians; Ethnonationalist supremacy under a new constitutional order; The elections of 1992 and 1994 and the assumption of power by Rabuka; Ethnic conflict and development: the political dimension; Ethnic conflict and development: the economic, cultural and psycho-social dimensions.

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