

Recent Publications from the East-West Center in Washington

The following are new titles in the Policy Studies series. Ordering information and abstracts of the publications appear

after the listing of titles.

* SINHALESE BUDDHIST NATIONALIST IDEOLOGY: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLITICS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN SRI LANKA, by Neil DeVotta.

2007.

* CREATING A "NEW NEPAL": THE ETHNIC DIMENSION, by Susan Hangen. 2007.

* POSTFRONTIER BLUES: TOWARD A NEW POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR NORTHEAST INDIA, by Sanjib Baruah. 2007.

* ETHNIC CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA: CHANGING DYNAMICS, by Jayadeva Uyangoda. 2007.

SINHALESE BUDDHIST NATIONALIST IDEOLOGY: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLITICS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN SRI LANKA, by Neil DeVotta.

Policy Studies 40. Washington, D.C.: East-West Center Washington, 2007. ix, 87 pp. Paper, \$10.00.

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2314>

This study argues that political Buddhism and Sinhalese Buddhist nationalism have contributed to a nationalist ideology that

has been used to expand and perpetuate Sinhalese Buddhist supremacy within a unitary Sri Lankan state; create laws, rules,

and structures that institutionalize such supremacy; and attack those who disagree with this agenda as enemies of the state.

The nationalist ideology is influenced by Sinhalese Buddhist mytho-history that was deployed by monks and politics in the

late nineteenth and twentieth centuries to assert that Sri Lanka is the designated sanctuary for Theravada Buddhism, belongs

to Sinhalese Buddhists, and Tamils and others live there only due to Sinhalese Buddhist sufferance. This ideology has

enabled majority superordination, minority subordination, and a separatist war waged by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE).

The study suggests both LTTE terrorism and the ethnocentric nature of the Sri Lankan state, which resorts to its own forms

of terrorism when fighting the civil war, need to be overcome if the island is to become a liberal democracy. The present

government of President Mahinda Rajapakse is the first to fully embrace the

Sinhalese Buddhist nationalist ideology,

suggesting that a political solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict is unlikely. Meaningful devolution of power, whereby

Tamils could coalesce with their ethnic counterparts amidst equality and self-respect, is not in the offing. A solution

along federal lines is especially unlikely. Instead, continued war and even attacks on Christians and Muslims seem to be in

store for Sri Lanka as the Sinhalese Buddhist nationalist ideology is further consolidated.

The study recommends that the international community adopt a more proactive stance in promoting a plural state and society

in Sri Lanka. In addition to countering the terrorist methods employed by the LTTE, the international community should

initiate and support measures to protect fundamental civil liberties and human rights of Sri Lanka's ethnic and religious

minority communities.

CREATING A "NEW NEPAL": THE ETHNIC DIMENSION, by Susan Hangen. Policy Studies 34. Washington, D. C.: East-West Center

Washington, 2007. ix, 87 pp. Paper, \$10.00. <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2202>

This study explores the ethnic dimension of the challenges that Nepal currently faces. Although Nepal has made substantial

progress toward regaining political stability since April 2006, ethnic conflict has become a major problem. The indigenous

nationalities movement, whose origins and demands are examined here, identifies fifty-nine diverse groups as indigenous

nationalities, and has mobilized them to revitalize their own cultures and end the domination of the state by high-caste

Hindus. The movement seeks ethnic federalism, the proportional representation of indigenous nationalities in state

institutions and linguistic freedom. It has contributed to democratization by creating awareness of ethnic issues and

pressuring the state into addressing ethnic inequality.

Analysts often credit the Nepali Communist Party (Maoist) for transforming the political discourse and system through their

decade-long People's War. The contributions of the indigenous nationalities movement must be recognized, however, so that

indigenous nationalities will be acknowledged as rightful political leaders.

To create long-term stability and strengthen democracy, the state should adopt policies that create an inclusive political

system. All marginalized groups must be adequately represented in decision-making bodies. A proportional election system

would ensure that small parties have a voice within the political system and are dissuaded from taking up arms. Legalizing

ethnic parties could help achieve this goal, as state opposition to them will fuel resentment, leading to violence.

Representations of the national identity should recognize Nepal's diversity. Without these changes, much of the population

will remain excluded from political processes, and further conflict may result.

POSTFRONTIER BLUES: TOWARD A NEW POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR NORTHEAST INDIA, by Sanjib Baruah. Policy Studies 33. Washington,

D. C.: East-West Center Washington, 2007. ix, 84 pp. Paper, \$10.00.
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2173>

A number of armed conflicts smolder in India's Northeastern border region. For instance, the Naga rebellion, which began in

the 1950s, is one of the world's oldest unresolved armed conflicts. With its controversial human rights record and sluggish

economic growth, Northeast India is a counterpoint to India's new image as a mature democracy, dynamic economy, and emerging

major power.

This study proposes a democratic institution-building agenda that is sensitive to the particular dynamics of change in this

"postfrontier." In a historically sparsely populated region with long-term trends of demographic transformation, managing

indigenous-settler tensions must be a priority. This and other challenges cannot be addressed through domestic policy alone.

An effective alternative policy must have a transnational dimension; to turn the region's extensive international borders -

with China's Tibet region, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Burma - from militarized zones of mistrust and confrontation to spaces of

cooperation.

ETHNIC CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA: CHANGING DYNAMICS, by Jayadeva Uyangoda. Policy Studies 32. Washington, D. C.: East-West Center

Washington, 2007. ix, 76 pp. Paper, \$10.00. <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2172>

Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict has become protracted and intractable. The twenty-five-year-old civil war has been interrupted

numerous times for a negotiated peace and political settlement, yet the conflict has defied de-escalation. All failed

attempts at negotiated peace have propelled the civil war forward with greater vitality and intensity. Attempts at

negotiated settlement, with or without ceasefires, have not only failed but have redefined the conflict.

This study suggests that early de-escalation or a long-term settlement is not possible at present. A protracted conflict

requires a protracted process of political transformation. Since the question of state power is at the core of the conflict,

a credible short-term path to peace should begin with negotiations that aim at, and lead to, reconstituting state power

along ethnic lines. This will require a grand ethnic compromise among Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim elites, backed by the

people in the three main ethnic formations.

Policy Studies presents scholarly analysis of key contemporary domestic and international political, economic, and strategic

issues affecting Asia in a policy relevant manner. Written for the policy community, academics, journalists, and the

informed public, the peer-reviewed publications in this series provide new policy insights and perspectives based on

extensive fieldwork and rigorous scholarship. Additional titles can be found at <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/policystudies>.

Recent titles in this series include:

ASSESSING BURMA'S CEASEFIRE ACCORDS, by Zaw Oo and Win Min. Policy Studies 39. Washington, D. C.: East-West Center

Washington; Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2007. 91 pp. Paper, electronic format; \$10.00.

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2252>

THE UNITED WA STATE PARTY: NARCO-ARMY OR ETHNIC NATIONALIST PARTY? by Tom Kramer. Policy Studies 38. Washington, D. C.:

East-West Center Washington; Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2007. 99 pp. Paper, electronic format; \$10.00.

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2251>

STATE OF STRIFE: THE DYNAMICS OF ETHNIC CONFLICT IN BURMA, by Martin Smith. Policy Studies 36. Washington, D. C.: East-West

Center Washington; Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2007. 96 pp. Paper, electronic format; \$10.00.

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2216>

POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN BURMA'S ETHNIC MINORITY STATES: DEVOLUTION, OCCUPATION, AND COEXISTENCE, by Mary P. Callahan. Policy

Studies 31. Washington, D. C.: East-West Center Washington; Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2007. 94 pp. Paper, electronic

format; \$10.00. <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2136>

LEGALIZING RELIGION: THE INDIAN SUPREME COURT AND SECULARISM, by Ronjoy Sen with commentary by Upendra Baxi. Policy Studies

30. Washington, D. C. : East-West Center Washington, 2007. ix, 64 pp. Paper, \$10.00.
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2123>

CONSPIRACY, POLITICS, AND A DISORDERLY BORDER: THE STRUGGLE TO COMPREHEND INSURGENCY
IN THAILAND'S DEEP SOUTH, by Marc

Askew. Policy Studies 29. Washington, D. C. : East-West Center Washington; Singapore:
ISEAS Publishing, 2007. xii, 100 pp.

Paper, electronic format; \$10.00. <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/pubs/2114>

Search the East-West Center website at <http://www.EastWestCenter.org/publications>
for other publications by the East-West

Center and its staff. If you have any questions, comments, or need further
information, contact the East-West Center

Publication Sales Office at ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.

East-West Center
Publication Sales Office
1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601
USA
Tel : 808.944.7145
Fax: 808.944.7376