

A SINHALA VILLAGE IN A TIME OF TROUBLE

Politics and Change in Rural Sri Lanka
JONATHAN SPENCER



Sinhala Village In A Time Of Trouble

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Sinhala Village In A Time Of Trouble:

A Sinhala Village in a Time of Trouble Jonathan Spencer, 2000 In this illuminating study of a village in southern central Sri Lanka Spencer examines how the interrelationship of political religious and economic life shapes the community by tracing the village through an election campaign year He reveals how the village redefined itself in traditional terms while using modern politics as an extension of their personal disputes Undertaken in the years immediately prior to the great escalation of political and religious tensions this study is of great importance to the understanding of modern Sri Lanka

Sinhala Village in a Time of Trouble Jonathan Spencer, 1990 *The Political Economy of Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka* Nikolaos Biziouras, 2014-03-26 At the point of independence in 1948 Sri Lanka was projected to be a success story in the developing world However in July 1983 a violent ethnic conflict which pitted the Sinhalese against the Tamils began and did not come to an end until 2009 This conflict led to nearly 50 000 combatant deaths and approximately 40 000 civilian deaths as well as almost 1 million internally displaced refugees and to the permanent migration abroad of nearly 130 000 civilians With a focus on Sri Lanka this book explores the political economy of ethnic conflict and examines how rival political leaders are able to convince their ethnic group members to follow them into violent conflict Specifically it looks at how political leaders can influence and utilize changes in the level of economic liberalization in order to mobilize members of a certain ethnic group and in the case of Sri Lanka shows how ethnic mobilization drives can turn violent when minority ethnic groups are economically marginalized by the decisions that the majority ethnic group leaders make in order to stay in power Taking a political economy approach to the conflict in Sri Lanka this book is unique in its historical analysis and provides a longitudinal view of the evolution of both Tamil and Sinhalese ethnic drives As such this interdisciplinary study will be of interest to policy makers as well as academics in the field of South Asian studies political science sociology development studies political economy and security studies

Leprosy and a Life in South India James Staples, 2014-06-05 Drawing on solid ethnographic fieldwork as well as many hours of interviews Leprosy and a Life in South India Journeys with a Tamil Brahmin tells the life story of Das a Tamil Brahmin born in the newly post colonial India of the early 1950s After being diagnosed with leprosy Das spent over a decade on the streets of Bombay and Madras learning to survive as an unofficial station porter hotel bellhop and sometimes tourist guide He won and lost fortunes on horses he gambled and he learned firsthand of the pleasures to be had in Bombay s red light district But for all the joy that comes through so vividly in his account Das s story unfolds against a backdrop of everyday violence and hardship Re investigated through the prism of an individual life what are often presented as the rigid social categories of caste religion and kinship come to be seen in fresh new ways Through this life history account Leprosy in South India captures all this in ways conventional accounts do not offering a unique take on what it is to be an Indian in contemporary India

Community, Gender and Violence Partha Chatterjee, Pradeep Jeganathan, 2000 In its early phase Subaltern Studies dealt extensively with the issue of community and

violence in the context of peasant uprisings Once the problems of peasant involvement in the modern politics of the nation were subjected to the same critical scrutiny complexities in that relationship began to emerge A new dimension was introduced when gender and national politics came to be taken seriously and in the present volume the whole range of new issues raised by the relations between community gender and violence are addressed The question of women and the nation especially among minorities features strongly in this work Qadri Ismail examines the claims of Tamil nationalism in Sri Lanka from the standpoint of the Southern Tamil woman Aamir Mufti looks not at the familiar gendered figure of the nation as mother but from the standpoint of the rejected minority at the brutalized prostitute while Tejaswini Niranjana writes on the new woman in contemporary Indian cinema Further chapters look at women and minorities in the context of the law Flavia Agnes examines the colonial and nationalist histories of the Hindu law of marriage and women s property Nivedita Menon critically reviews the Indian debate over the universal civil code and David Scott discusses with an eye to Sri Lanka the concept of minority rights within modern theories of citizenship The issue of violence is taken up by Satish Deshpande in his study of the imagined space within which the new Hindu Right seeks to assert its dominance and by Pradeep Jeganathan in his exploration of violence in the cultivation of masculinity In her conclusion Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak considers the position within a globalized economic space of the new subaltern The Third World laboring woman from [http books google com](http://books.google.com) Nov 10 2010

Making the Right Choice Asha Abeyasekera, 2021-03-12 Making the Right Choice is an intimate portrait of the politics of marriage and gender narrated through the life histories of three generations of Sinhala Buddhist families living in urban Sri Lanka The book demonstrates that marriage is a privileged site to investigate questions about gendered selves gendered agency and modern subjectivities

The Saint in the Banyan Tree David Mosse, 2012-10-01 This is a powerful and exciting work Mosse has produced a work of scholarship that is lively and readable without any loss of subtlety and sophistication It is a ground breaking study of critical importance to the ways we understand religious nationalism and the anthropology of postcolonial experience Susan Bayly author of Asian Voices in a Postcolonial Age

Cascades of Violence John Braithwaite, Bina D'Costa, 2018-02-01 As in the cascading of water violence and nonviolence can cascade down from commanding heights of power as in waterfalls up from powerless peripheries and can undulate to spread horizontally flowing from one space to another As with containing water conflict cannot be contained without asking crucial questions about which variables might cause it to cascade from the top down bottom up and from the middle out The book shows how violence cascades from state to state Empirical research has shown that nations with a neighbor at war are more likely to have a civil war themselves Sambanis 2001 More importantly in the analysis of this book war cascades from hot spot to hot spot within and between states Autesserre 2010 2014 The key to understanding cascades of hot spots is in the interaction between local and macro cleavages and alliances Kalyvas 2006 The analysis exposes the folly of asking single level policy questions like do the benefits and costs of a regime change in Iraq justify an invasion We must also ask what

other violence might cascade from an invasion of Iraq The cascades concept is widespread in the physical and biological sciences with cascades in geology particle physics and the globalization of contagion The past two decades has seen prominent and powerful applications of the cascades idea to the social sciences Sunstein 1997 Gladwell 2000 Sikkink 2011 In his discussion of ethnic violence James Rosenau 1990 stressed that the image of turbulence developed by mathematicians and physicists could provide an important basis for understanding the idea of bifurcation and related ideas of complexity chaos and turbulence in complex systems He classified the bifurcated systems in contemporary world politics as the multicentric system and the statecentric system Each of these affects the others in multiple ways at multiple levels and in ways that make events enormously hard to predict Rosenau 1990 2006 He replaced the idea of events with cascades to describe the event structures that gather momentum stall reverse course and resume anew as their repercussions spread among whole systems and subsystems 1990 299 Through a detailed analysis of case studies in South Asia that built on John Braithwaite's twenty five year project Peacebuilding Compared and coding of conflicts in different parts of the globe we expand Rosenau's concept of global turbulence and images of cascades In the cascades of violence in South Asia we demonstrate how micro events such as localized riots land grabbing pervasive militarization and attempts to assassinate political leaders are linked to large scale macro events of global politics We argue in order to prevent future conflicts there is a need to understand the relationships between history structures and agency interest values and politics global and local factors and alliances

Borders Hastings Donnan, Thomas M. Wilson, 2021-03-10 Borders are where wars start as Primo Levi once wrote But they are also bridges that is sites for ongoing cultural exchange Anyone studying how nations and states maintain distinct identities while adapting to new ideas and experiences knows that borders provide particularly revealing windows for the analysis of self and other In representing invisible demarcations between nations and peoples who may have much or very little in common borders exert a powerful influence and define how people think as well as what they do Without borders whether physical or symbolic nationalism could not exist nor could borders exist without nationalism Surprisingly there have been very few systematic or concerted efforts to review the experiences of nation and state at the local level of borders Drawing on examples from the US and Mexico Northern Ireland Israel and Palestine Spain and Morocco as well as various parts of Southeast Asia and Africa this timely book offers a comparative perspective on culture at state boundaries The authors examine the role of the state ethnicity transnationalism border symbols rituals and identity in an effort to understand how nationalism informs attitudes and behaviour at local national and international levels Soldiers customs agents smugglers tourists athletes shoppers and prostitutes all provide telling insights into the power relations of everyday life and what these relations say about borders This overview of the importance of borders to the construction of identity and culture will be an essential text for students and scholars in anthropology sociology political science geography nationalism and immigration studies

Siting Culture Karen Fog Olwig, 1997 Siting Culture will be essential reading to the

many students of culture who are looking for ways of siting culture in the diffuse and complex theoretical space of present day anthropology

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