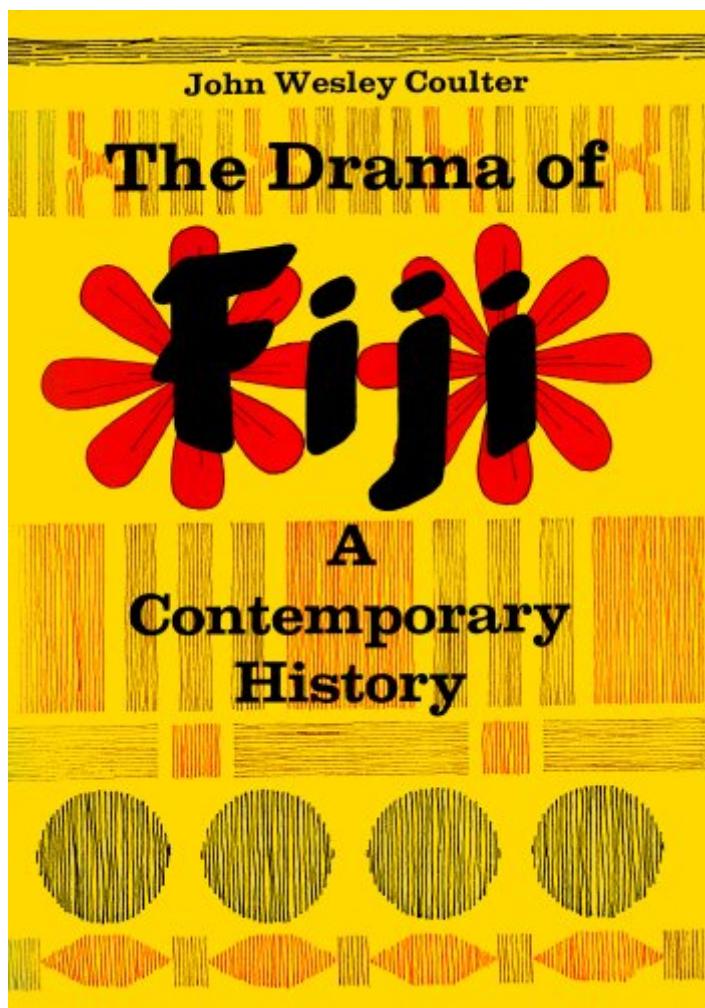


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Drama Of Fiji: A Contemporary History



Synopsis

This history of Fiji focuses on the period of Imperial British control and offers a fascinating glimpse at a unique and volatile situation. The drama unfolds with a look into the backgrounds of the native Fijians—subsistence farmers most of whom are hardly affected by modern progress. Complications arise with the introduction of the Indian migrants who were recruited to serve periods of indenture on sugar cane plantations. Nearly all of them were Hindus. They yearned for land—the most valuable property in India. The plot further thickens with the "dual government" setup where a governor, appointed by the Queen, works side by side with the Fijian Administration which has jurisdiction over all Fijians in the Colony. The Drama of Fiji is based on three periods of fieldwork in those islands at intervals over a period of 23 years, visit to northern India, and relevant literature. The last visit to Fiji, in 1960, was part of a large project in the South Pacific, made possible by a combined grant-in-aid of research, given by the Association of American Geographers and the Graduate School of the University of Cincinnati, the latter of which awarded a subvention to the author for this book.

Book Information

File Size: 2866 KB

Print Length: 219 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing (December 15, 1989)

Publication Date: December 15, 1989

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00EBO1HNA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,529,694 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #25 in Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Fiji #799 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Australia & Oceania #804 in Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Oceania

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