

This is a truly thematic collection with a well-defined focus... Anyone with an interest in contemporary Nepal should study this volume.

Michael Allen
Professor of Anthropology, Sydney University

A timely and remarkable array of studies...of consistently high quality... It deserves a wide readership by those interested in the politics and anthropology of Nepal.

James F. Fisher
Professor of Anthropology, Carleton College

For nearly 240 years (1768-2006) either the Shah dynasty or their Rana Prime Ministers ruled Nepal in the name of Hinduism; in more recent times Shah kings claimed also to embody national unity in their own person. Since the nineteenth century Nepal has experienced the autocracy of the Ranas, a first experiment with parliamentarianism, guided partyless democracy led by the king, multi-party constitutional monarchy (including an elected minority communist government for nine months, 1994-5), royal reaction (2004-6) finally reversed by massive street protests, a ten-year 'People's War' launched by the Maoists in 1996, followed by a peace process and elections to a Constituent Assembly in April 2008 in which the Maoists emerged as the largest single party with almost 30% of the vote. In all this, national and ethnic questions have been of crucial importance.

Originally published in 1997, this volume takes a long-term view of the various processes of ethnic and national development both before and after the re-establishment of the multi-party system in 1990, and it examines the ways that different political regimes have framed and attempted to control castes and ethnic groups. It brings together twelve carefully chosen ethnographic and historical chapters covering most of the major ethnic groups and regions of Nepal. Two leading Nepali intellectuals, Prayag Raj Sharma and the late Harka Gurung, provide concluding commentaries. For this edition a substantial new introduction brings the story up to 2008.

With its coverage of different groups and regions, *Nationalism and Ethnicity in Nepal* provides a rich and grounded introduction to contemporary Nepal. It will be essential reading for all South Asian specialists, for sociologists, anthropologists, and historians interested in nationalism and ethnicity, and for anyone seeking to understand how Nepal is likely to develop in future.

About the Editors

David N. Gellner is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford. His publications include *Monk, Householder, and Tantric Priest* (C.U.P., 1992), *Resistance and the State* (Social Science Press, 2003), (with S. LeVine) *Rebuilding Buddhism: The Theravada Movement in Twentieth-Century Nepal* (Harvard U.P., 2005), and (with K. Hachhethu) *Local Democracy in South Asia: The Microprocesses of Democratization in Nepal and its Neighbours* (Sage, 2008).

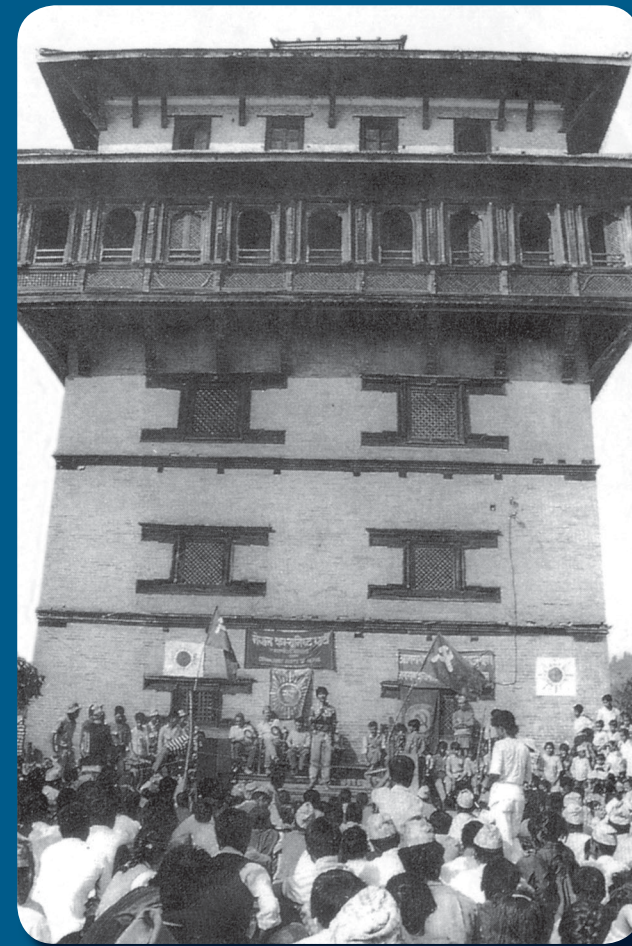
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