BROKEN WAVES

A HISTORY OF THE FIJI ISLANDS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

BRIJ V. LAL

Center for Pacific Islands Studies
School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies
University of Hawaii
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRESS • Honolulu

Contents

Illustrations	xiii
Preface	xv
Acknowledgments	xix
Conventions	xxi
Abbreviations	xxi
Fijian Orthography	xxi
Money	xxi
Introduction	3
Land and People	3
The Nineteenth Century: Road to Cession	5
Cession and Its Legacy	11
1 The Second Coming: 1900-1920	17
Fijians: Shaking the Tree	18
Lala	20
Taxation	22
Trading	. 26
Fijian Labor Laws	- 27
Land and Land Reform	28
European Planters and Federation	33
Indians: Girmit and Free	38
The 1910s: Protest, War, and Death	45
Manilal Doctor	46
Apolosi Nawai	48
World War I	54
Influenza	57
2 The Foundations Challenged: 1920-1939	60
Population and Its Politics	63
Fijian Society: Questions and Problems	65
Viti Cauravou	72
From Indians to Indo-Fijians	74
The 1920 Strike	80
Company and Kisan: Round One	81
Education	83

x Contents

	Electoral Representation Land and Land Tenure	86 97
	The Colonial World	102
3	For King and Country: 1939–1959 War The War in Nadi	108 109 113
	For King and Country Company and Kisan: Round Two	117 125
	Native Land and Fijian Affairs The Politics of the Deed of Cession	134
	Race Relations in the 1950s	139 143
	War in Malaya Social Change Education	149 151 158
4	Winds of Change: 1959-1969	164
	The 1959 Strike Company and Kisan: Round Three	165 169
	Commissions of Inquiry Toward Self-Government	180 186
	The 1965 Constitutional Conference Elections and By-elections	195 200
	The End of an Era	206
5	The Center Cannot Hold: 1970-1987	214
	The 1970s: Tentative Honeymoon The Street Commission and the Constitution	218 221
	The Issue of Land Yet Again	224
	The Politics of Balance	227
	Butadroka, Racism, and the Elections	235
	The 1980s: New Wines in Old Bottles	242
	A Government of National Unity	243
	1982: Western Regionalism, Elections, and Aftermath	245
	1982-1987: Consolidation and Fragmentation	251
	Fiji Labour Party, Coalition, and Campaign	258
6	Things Fall Apart: The 1987 Crisis	267
	Coalition Government	269
	The Rise of Taukei Militancy	27 1
	The Coup and a Week After	275
	Coalition and Other Reactions	279
	Seeking a Constitutional Solution	284
	The September Coup and the Birth of the Fiji Republic	291
	The Causes of the Coup	296
	The Principal Players	304

Contents	xi

7 Broken Waves	316
Appendix: Population and Trade Statistics	335
Notes	345
Glossary	377
Bibliography	381
Index	397

•

.

.