



THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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PREFACE

This book outlines the main trends in the past, present and possible futures of the diverse and stimulating societies of the world's most scattered region. The main focus is on the Pacific Islands today, but much of what happens today is conditioned in varying degrees by what happened yesterday, both within the Pacific and beyond. Much of what happens tomorrow will be influenced by forces which are already in operation.

The final section includes basic facts about each Pacific Islands nation or territory; a select list of Pacific Islands organizations and services; notes on journals and films relevant to Pacific studies; a bibliography and index.

The chapters aim to be self-contained, so that readers interested in particular topics can go straight to them.

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THE SOUTH PACIFIC is about the 28 islands nations and territories of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. Indigenous and external influences are creating new and unique arts, cultures, identities, societies, economies and politics of extreme diversity. Future trends are explored, but the main focus is on the present. After 100 years or more of control by mainly European nations, but also Japan and Indonesia, Pacific peoples are working out their destinies in a complex environment in which East Asia plays an escalating role. The book is an important contribution to understanding the Pacific, the Third World and the development debate. Because of the wealth of issues covered, the fascinating truths revealed and the simplicity of style, it will be welcomed by general readers as well as by serious scholars of the Pacific.



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