Community, Numbers, and Politics in Nagaland

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TRIBES, TRADITIONS, TENSIONS
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Democracy is commonly understood in the singular – a governing system that society has more or less learned to live with in Nagaland. It is an unsatisfactory democratic structure and governance by looking at the political, historical context in which current democracy was introduced, how Naga themselves view democracy, the reasoning they adopt as they engage in political elections, the meaning of traditional practices and values in the new democratic playing field, and at the present and future dilemmas that such practices evoke.

Democracy is a concept set of universal ideals. Or it is based on the political awareness of history as a set practice that enables people’s action. This volume articulates the modern ways in which Nagaland has entered the modern age when the dominant mode of democratic representation is through the ballot box. It suggests that this process needs to be different ways, seen through the landscapes of colonialism, nationalization, the influence of money, the role of customary laws, and the way social structures – family, clans, village, tribe, gender, and church – work. Political power not only implies the political and actualized in the population of Nagaland in producing new political leaders. A deliberate separation of these processes, the collection will redefine democracy in the remanifestation of democracy in India and elsewhere.

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Democracy in Nagaland offers a unique view through which an array of perspectives reveal the ‘absence’ of an active Naga ‘citizen’ which is concerned with the traditional practices and values of democracy and elections. Through a general and empirical approach, various contributions here signify that Nagaland has not always been as it is in the modern democracy concept. The Nagaland people have not always followed the rules and regulations that are expected of modern democracy. The book is divided into parts that explore the possibilities of creating new perspectives and contexts.

Akhil Langiat, author of “Self Determination: A Resource For Just Peace” published by Heritage

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