

Azim Premji University

From the SelectedWorks of Vikas Kumar

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Community, Numbers, and Politics in Nagaland

Ankush Agrawal Vikas Kumar



Is democracy an abstract set of universal ideals? Or is it lived out in the political moments of history as a set of tractices that mobilise people's wishes? This volume articulates the multivalent ways in which Nagaland has evolved in the modern era when the dominant mode of electoral representation is through the ballot box. It suggests that this process unravels in different ways, seen through the landscape of militarisation, nationalism, the influence of money, the role of customary laws, and the ways social structures – family, clan, village, tribe, gender, and church – mark electoral politics. Crucial pointers emerge on how the political is lived and actualised in the quotidian workings of Nagaland, producing its own political culture. A brilliant exposition of these processes, this collection will enliven debate on the vernacularisation of democracy in Northeast India and elsewhere.

- Arkotong Longkumer, Anthropologist, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Democracy in Nagaland offers a prism through which an array of perspectives reveal the 'underbelly' of an active Naga 'colonial' context that is constantly interacting with postcolonial systems and practices of democracy and elections. Through grounded and empirical approaches, the various contributions shed light, among other things, on how an 'imposed' democracy created a parochial power structure in which elections are reduced to acceptable procedures for power holders to assert, maintain, and exercise their political power and interests. This book will help to navigate the urgent change that is needed to prevent modern democracy from further corroding Naga values and society.

- Aküm Longchari, author of "Self Determination: A Resource For Just Peace" published by Heritage

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COVER IMAGE: A picture of the Plebiscite of May 16, 1951 Source: www.nagajournal.com

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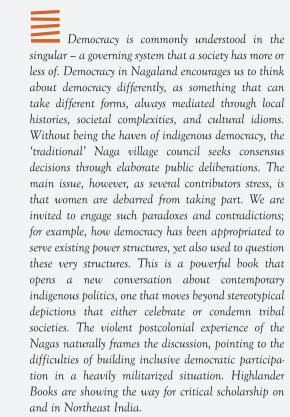


DEMOCRACY IN NAGALAND

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