



The state and ethnic politics in Southeast Asia

Given the increasing number of ethnic disputes around the world, David Brown has written a timely work on the nature of ethnicity and the ways in which it is affected by the composition, structure and policies of the state.

The book provides discussions of ethnic politics in Burma, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, and offers a coherent interpretation of the variations in the nature of ethnic consciousness and the causes of ethnic tensions in these countries.

This ethnic consciousness is defined in terms of a psychological and political ideology that is crucially influenced by the character of the state. The argument is developed through an examination of differing conceptualizations of the state relating to neo-patrimonialism, corporatism, ethnocracy, internal colonialism and class, so as to show how these different perspectives each generate distinct explanations of ethnic politics.

The State and Ethnic Politics in Southeast Asia is aimed primarily at Southeast Asia specialists, but will also be of interest to students of comparative politics.

David Brown is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the National University of Singapore.

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David Brown



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