

# *The Presence of the Past*

CHRONICLES, POLITICS, AND  
CULTURE IN SINHALA LIFE



*Steven Kemper*

# Presence Of The Past The Chronicles Politics And Culture In Sinhala Life

**Theda Skocpol**



## **Presence Of The Past The Chronicles Politics And Culture In Sinhala Life:**

Sri Lanka in the Modern Age Nira Wickramasinghe, 2014-01-03 Sri Lanka in the Modern Age recounts the modern history of the island in an accessible yet unconventional manner Where other histories have tended to focus on the state's failure to accommodate the needs and demands of minority communities Wickramasinghe places their claims alongside the political social and economic demands of other communities parties associations and groups tracing their lineages to the colonial period This updated second edition carries the book into the present covering the brutal end of Sri Lanka's civil war and the making of oppressive stability that has grown in its wake Drawing on recent work as well as on her own research in the field Wickramasinghe has written above all a history of the people of Sri Lanka rather than a history of the nation state

**Buddhism, Politics and the Limits of Law** Benjamin Schonthal, 2016-11-17 Examining Sri Lanka's religious and legal pasts this is the first extended study of Buddhism and constitutional law

**Economy, Culture, and Civil War in Sri Lanka** Deborah Winslow, Michael D. Woost, 2004-09-02 Will be of interest to those working on conflict and peace studies economic development cultural studies and women in the modern world A key new publication Chandra R de Silva Old Dominion University offers a superb overview of how a civil war driven by ethnicity can engender a new culture and a new political economy Highly recommended Choice Economy Culture and Civil War in Sri Lanka provides a lucid and up to date interpretation of Sri Lankan society and its 20 year civil conflict An interdisciplinary examination of the relationship between the economy broadly defined and the reproduction of violent conflict this volume argues that the war is grounded not just in the goals and intentions of the opposing sides but also in the everyday orientations experiences and material practices of all Sri Lankan people The contributors explore changing political and policy contexts the effect of long term conflict on employment opportunities and life choices for rural and urban youth life histories memory and narratives of violence the economics of enlisting and individual decisions about involvement in the war and nationalism and the moral debate triggered by women's employment in the international garment manufacturing industry Contributors are Francesca Bremner Michele Ruth Gamburd Newton Gunasinghe Siri T Hettige Caitrin Lynch John M Richardson Jr Amita Shastri Deborah Winslow and Michael D Woost

**Consuming Ethnicity and Nationalism** Kosaku Yoshino, 2019-07-23 This book is unique in applying a consumption approach to the study of ethnicity and nationalism thereby challenging the usual top down approach to nation formation Contributors from a variety of disciplines examine the on going consumption of minority and national cultures by looking at different forms of consumption including a national lottery theme parks museums cross cultural handbooks popular song and audio visual media Chapters span diverse parts of Asia from Korea Japan and China to Malaysia and Sri Lanka imparting to the volume a rare comparative quality It should appeal to anyone interested in Asian Studies as well as in the sociology and anthropology of culture nationalism and globalisation

**Architecture and Nationalism in Sri Lanka** Anoma Pieris, 2013 The role of the home the domestic sphere and the intimate ethno cultural identities that are cultivated

within it are critical to understanding the polemical constructions of country and city tradition and modernity and regionalism and cosmopolitanism The home is fundamental to ideas of the homeland that give nationalism its imaginative form and its political trajectory This book explores positions that are vital to ideas of national belonging through the history of colonial bourgeois self fashioning and post colonial identity construction in Sri Lanka The country remains central to related architectural discourses due to its emergence as a critical site for regional architecture post independence Suggesting patterns of indigenous accommodation and resistance that are expressed through built form the book argues that the nation grows as an extension of an indigenous private sphere ostensibly uncontaminated by colonial influences domesticating institutions and appropriating rural geographies in the pursuit of its hegemonic ideals This ambitious comprehensive wide ranging book presents an abundance of new and original material and many imaginative insights into the history of architecture and nationalism from the mid nineteenth century to the present day

**Nationalism, Development and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka** Rajesh Venugopal, 2018-10-18 This book examines the relationship between ethnic conflict and economic development in modern Sri Lanka Drawing on a historically informed political sociology it explores how the economic and the ethnic have encountered one another focusing in particular on the phenomenon of Sinhala nationalism In doing so the book engages with some of the central issues in contemporary Sri Lanka why has the ethnic conflict been so protracted and so resistant to solution What explains the enduring political significance of Sinhala nationalism What is the relationship between market reform and conflict Why did the Norwegian sponsored peace process collapse How is the Rajapaksa phenomenon to be understood The topical spread of the book is broad covering the evolution of peasant agriculture land scarcity state welfarism nationalist ideology party systems political morality military employment business elites market reforms and development aid

**Ravana's Kingdom** Justin W. Henry, 2022 In Ravana's Kingdom Justin W Henry delves into the historical literary reception of the Ramayana in Sri Lanka charting how the demon king antagonist Ravana has become an unlikely cultural hero among Sinhala Buddhists over the past decade

**Democracy in Translation** Frederic Charles Schaffer, 2000-07 Frederic C Schaffer challenges the assumption often made by American scholars that democracy has been achieved in foreign countries when criteria such as free elections are met Elections he argues often have cultural underpinnings that are invisible to outsiders To examine grassroots understandings of democratic institutions and political concepts Schaffer conducted fieldwork in Senegal a mostly Islamic and agrarian country with a long history of electoral politics Schaffer discovered that ideas of demokaraasi held by Wolof speakers often reflect concerns about collective security Many Senegalese see voting as less a matter of choosing leaders than of reinforcing community ties that may be called upon in times of crisis By looking carefully at language Schaffer demonstrates that institutional arrangements do not necessarily carry the same meaning in different cultural contexts Democracy in Translation asks how social scientists should investigate the functioning of democratic institutions in cultures dissimilar from their own and raises

larger issues about the nature of democracy the universality of democratic ideals and the practice of cross cultural research

Advertising Cultures Timothy de Waal Malefyt, Brian Moeran, 2020-05-11 Through its artful engagement with consumers advertising subtly shapes our everyday worlds It plays upon powerful emotions envy fear lust and ambition But the industry itself is far more subtle and complex than many people might assume Through an innovative mix of business strategy and cultural theory this pioneering book provides a behind the scenes analysis of the link between advertising and larger cultural forces as well as a rare look into the workings of agencies themselves How do advertisements endeavour to capture real life How do advertising agencies think of their audience the consumer and their corporate client What issues do agencies have to consider when using an advertisement in a range of different countries What specific methods are used to persuade us not only to buy but to remain loyal to a product How do advertisers fan consumer desire An incisive understanding of human behaviour is at the core of all these questions and is what unites advertisers and anthropologists in their work While this link may come as a surprise to those who consider the former to be firmly rooted in commerce and the latter in culture this book clearly shows that these two fields share a remarkable number of convergences From constructing a Japaneseness that appeals to two very different Western audiences to tracking advertising changes in the post World War II period to considering how people can be influenced by language and symbols *Advertising Cultures* is an indispensable guide to the production of images and to consumer behaviour for practitioners and students alike

*Subalterns and Raj* Crispin Bates, 2013-09-16 *Subalterns and Raj* presents a unique introductory history of India with an account that begins before the period of British rule and pursues the continuities within that history up to the present day Its coverage ranges from Mughal India to post independence Pakistan Bangladesh and Sri Lanka with a focus on the ordinary people of India and South Asia *Subalterns and Raj* examines overlooked issues in Indian social history and highlights controversies between historians Taking an iconoclastic approach to the elites of South Asia since independence it is critical of the colonial regime that went before them This book is a stimulating and controversial read and with a detailed guide to further reading and end of chapter bibliographies it is an excellent guide for all students of the Indian subcontinent

*"Ravanisation": The Revitalisation of Ravana among Sinhalese Buddhists in Post-War Sri Lanka* Deborah de Koning, 2022 This book discusses Ravanisation the revitalisation of Ravana among Sinhalese Buddhists in post war after 2009 Sri Lanka The Hindu Ramayana generally portrays Ravana as a cruel king How and why then has Ravana gained the interest of Sinhalese Buddhists This study takes an ethnographic perspective to answer these questions The book discusses multiple Ravana representations that have emerged at an urban Buddhist site the Sri Devram Maha Viharaya and a rural site Lakegala and discloses how Ravanisation relates to Sinhalese Buddhist ethno nationalism In addition the material ritual and spatial perspectives offer unique insights in the personal and local relevance of Ravana

**Politics of Religion and Nationalism** Ferran Requejo, Klaus-Jürgen Nagel, 2014-12-17 There are numerous examples of how religion and nationalism intertwine In some cases a common religion

is the fundamental marker of a nation's identity whereas in others secular nationalism tries to hold together people of different religious beliefs. This book examines the link between religion and nationalism in contemporary politics. By exploring case studies on India, Russia, Israel, Canada, Chechnya, Bosnia Herzegovina, Belgium, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Sri Lanka, Catalonia, and the Basque Country, it seeks to understand the relationship between these two key societal forms of diversity and assess the interaction between religious and nationalist perspectives. Expert contributors examine a variety of phenomena including secular nationalism, secessionism, and politics in which religious pluralism is evolving. This book will be of interest to students and scholars of political science, religion, and politics, nationalism, federalism, secession, political philosophy, racial and ethnic politics, and comparative politics.

**Buddha in Sri Lanka** Swarna Wickremaratne, 2012-02-01

This book provides both an erudite and intimate look at how Buddhism is lived in Sri Lanka. While India is known as the birthplace of Buddhism, Sri Lanka is its other home. Buddhism extends back over twenty-five hundred years on the island and remains at the center of its spiritual traditions and culture. Throughout the book, author Swarna Wickremaratne incorporates a personal view, sharing stories of herself, her family, friends, and acquaintances as they lived Buddhism both during her Sri Lankan girlhood and during more recent times. This personal view makes the traditions come alive as Wickremaratne details Buddhist beliefs, customs, rituals, and ceremonies and folklore. She also provides a fascinating discussion of the Sangha, the institutional monkhood in Sri Lanka, including its history, codes of conduct, and evolution and resilience over time. Wickremaratne explores the recent attempts by many monks to reinvent themselves in a society characterized by secularization, globalization, and a tide of aggressive Christian evangelization.

*Religion, Space and Conflict in Sri Lanka* Elizabeth J. Harris, 2018-03-28

Space is dynamic, political, and a cause of conflict. It bears the weight of human dreams and fears. Conflict is caused not only by spatial exclusivism but also by an inclusivism that seeks harmony through subordinating the particularity of the Other to the world view of the majority. This book uses the lens of space to examine inter-religious and inter-communal conflict in colonial and post-colonial Sri Lanka, demonstrating that the colonial can shed light on the post-colonial, particularly on post-war developments post-May 2009 when Buddhist symbolism was controversially developed in the former largely non-Buddhist war zones. Using the concepts of exclusivism and inclusivist subordination, the book analyses the different imaginaries or world views that were present in colonial and post-1948 Sri Lanka, with particular reference to the ethnic or religious Other and how these were expressed in space, influenced one another, and engendered conflict. The book's use of insights from human geography, peace studies, and secular iterations of the theology of religions breaks new ground, as does its narrative technique, which prioritizes voices from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the author's fieldwork and personal observation in the twenty-first. Through utilizing past and contemporary reflections on lived experience informed by diverse religious world views, the book offers new insights into Sri Lanka's past and present. It will be of interest to an interdisciplinary audience in the fields of colonial and postcolonial studies, war and peace studies, security

studies religious studies the study of religion Buddhist Studies mission studies South Asian and Sri Lankan studies

Rescued from the Nation Steven Kemper, 2015-01-13 Anagarika Dharmapala is one of the most galvanizing figures in Sri Lanka's recent turbulent history. He is widely regarded as the nationalist hero who saved the Sinhala people from cultural collapse and whose protestant reformation of Buddhism drove monks toward increased political involvement and ethnic confrontation. Yet as tied to Sri Lankan nationalism as Dharmapala is in popular memory, he spent the vast majority of his life abroad engaging other concerns. In *Rescued from the Nation*, Steven Kemper reevaluates this important figure in the light of an unprecedented number of his writings, ones that paint a picture not of a nationalist zealot but of a spiritual seeker earnest in his pursuit of salvation. Drawing on huge stores of source materials, nearly one hundred diaries and notebooks, Kemper reconfigures Dharmapala as a world renouncer first and a political activist second. Following Dharmapala on his travels between East Asia, South Asia, Europe, and the United States, he traces his lifelong project of creating a unified Buddhist world, recovering the place of the Buddha's Enlightenment and imitating the Buddha's life course. The result is a needed corrective to Dharmapala's embattled legacy, one that resituates Sri Lanka's political awakening within the religious one that was Dharmapala's life project.

Reading the Mahāvamsa Kristin Scheible, 2016-11-08 Vamsa is a dynamic genre of Buddhist history filled with otherworldly characters and the exploits of real-life heroes. These narratives collapse the temporal distance between Buddha and the reader, building an emotionally resonant connection with an outsized religious figure and a longed-for past. The fifth-century Pali text *Mahāvamsa* is a particularly effective example, using metaphor and other rhetorical devices to ethically transform readers, to stimulate and then to calm them. *Reading the Mahāvamsa* advocates a new literary approach to this text, by revealing its embedded reading advice, to experience *samvega* and *pasāda*, and the affective work of metaphors: the Buddha's dharma as light and salient characters, *nagas*. Kristin Scheible argues that the *Mahāvamsa* requires a particular kind of reading. In the text's proem, special instructions draw readers to the metaphor of light and the *nagas*, or salient snake beings, of the first chapter. *Nagas* are both model worshippers and unworthy hoarders of Buddha's relics. As nonhuman agents, they challenge political and historicist readings of the text. Scheible sees these slippery characters and the narrative's potent and playful metaphors as techniques for refocusing the reader's attention on the text's emotional aims. Her work explains the *Mahāvamsa*'s central motivational role in contemporary Sri Lankan Buddhist and nationalist circles. It also speaks broadly to strategies of reading religious texts and to the internal and external cues that give such works lives beyond the page.

*In Defense of Dharma* Tessa J. Bartholomeusz, 2005-07-26 This is the first book to examine war and violence in Sri Lanka through the lens of cross-cultural studies on just war tradition and theory. An important contribution to the understanding of the power of religion to create both peace and war.

*Exile in Colonial Asia* Ronit Ricci, 2016-05-31 Exile was a potent form of punishment and a catalyst for change in colonial Asia between the seventeenth and early twentieth centuries. Vast networks of forced migration supplied laborers to emerging colonial settlements while European powers banished rivals to

faraway locations Exile in Colonial Asia explores the phenomenon of exile in ten case studies by way of three categories kings royals banished as political exiles convicts the vast majority of those whose lives are explored in this volume sent halfway across the world with often unexpected consequences and commemoration referring to the myriad ways in which the experience and its aftermath were remembered by those exiled relatives left behind colonial officials and subsequent generations of descendants devotees historians and politicians Intended for a broad readership interested in the colonial period in Asia South and Southeast Asia in particular the volume encompasses a range of disciplinary perspectives anthropology gender studies literature history and Asian Australian and Pacific studies In addition to presenting fascinating little known and varied case studies of exile in colonial Asia and Australia the chapters collectively offer a sweeping contextualized comparative approach that links the narratives of diverse peoples and locales Rather than confining research to the European colonial archives whenever possible the authors put special emphasis on the use of indigenous primary sources hitherto little explored Exile in Colonial Asia invites imaginative methodological innovation in exploring multiple archives and expands our theoretical frontiers in thinking about the interconnected histories of penal deportation labor migration political exile colonial expansion and individual destinies

#### **Democracy, Revolution, and History**

Theda Skocpol, 2018-10-18 The work of Barrington Moore Jr is one of the landmarks of modern social science A distinguished roster of contributors here discusses the influence of his best known work Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy Their individual perspectives combine in delineating Moore s contributions to the transformation of comparative and historical social science over the past several decades The essays in Democracy Revolution and History all address substantive and methodological problems asking questions about the different historical paths toward democratic or nondemocratic political outcomes Following Moore s example they use well researched comparative cases to make their arguments In the process they demonstrate how vital Moore s work remains to contemporary research in the social sciences This volume points as well to new frontiers of scholarship suggesting lines of work that build upon Moore s achievements

#### **Destruction and Conservation of Cultural Property**

R Layton, P Stone, J Thomas, 2003-09-02 In 1991 the mosque at Ayodhya in India was demolished by Hindu fundamentalists who claim that it stood on the birthplace of a legendary Hindu hero During recent conflicts in former Yugoslavia ethnic groups destroyed mosques and churches to eliminate evidence of long term settlement by other communities Over successive centuries however a single building in Cordoba functioned as a mosque a church and a synagogue The Roman Emperor Diocletian s Palace in Split is occupied today by shops and residential apartments What circumstances have lead to the survival and reinterpretation of some monuments but the destruction of others This work asks whether the idea of world heritage is an essential mechanism for the protection of the world s cultural and natural heritage or whether it subjugates a diversity of cultural traditions to specifically Western ideas How far is it acceptable for one group of people to comment upon or intercede in the way in which another community treats the remains which it claims as its own



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