



policy, with an emphasis on the way current institutions reflect the impact of previous political conflicts and struggles. The book critiques the country's social policy from the perspectives of the Western theories of 'welfare state' and development studies. It also provides valuable insights into the issues of modernization and democratization in colonial settings by analysing the distinctive nature of the Sri Lankan colonial experience. The book also looks at the future prospects of development in Sri Lanka in view of the unfolding of the complex social and political milieu following the end of the twenty-five-year-old civil war in the country. This book will be a seminal reference resource for students and researchers working in the fields of development studies, colonial studies, South Asian studies, sociology, history and political science.

This is a scholarly book of singular importance. It is also a powerful statement of timely significance for a deeply conflicted society that has just endured a quarter century of bloody civil war? Sri Lanka in 2010. Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya has achieved that double success through a rare capacity to address social theory via a comparative lens, coupled with a deep appreciation of how past and present interact... Sri Lanka may have had no Nelson Mandela to bring a statesmanship of Reconciliation, but it still has the wise reflections of this deep thinking and humane scholar. (Deryck Schreuder 2010-09-09) Professor Jayasuriya offers us an intriguing excursion into the history of social policy in Sri Lanka... a revealing study in the political economy of social policy and one that emphasises the importance of the interplay of historical legacies and emerging post-colonial politics... Sri Lanka may be a "unique case" but the lessons that Professor Jayasuriya draws from its welfare history are by no means unique [only for Sri Lanka]. (Roy Parker 2010-09-09) Jayasuriya's study purposively draws us back to important ideas about the interaction of states and markets in achieving relatively equitable social development... the author breaks out of the dominant economic analysis of Sri Lanka's development experience. One of the elements of this theoretical fusion is an attention to the legacies of British colonial rule... But his is not simply a work of history, for Jayasuriya is very much focused on what he calls the "deteriorating contemporary human condition as a global malaise". (Kevin Hewison 2010-09-09) The perspective in this book is quite different to much of the previous analyses of the Sri Lankan social development experience... the book presents what is best described as an 'insider/outsider' view on Sri Lanka, which is a rarity. (The Book) This scholarly work is an important contribution to the literature of global social policy-making as social development. Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya offers an intriguing excursion into the history of social policy, social development, historical legacies and emerging post-colonial politics. Sri Lanka may be 'a unique case', but the lessons drawn from its welfare history are by no means unique... This study provides important ideas about the interaction of states and markets in achieving relatively equitable social development... The author has achieved double success by looking how past and present interact in the social theory through a comparative lens, which reflects his deep thinking as a humane scholar. (Asia Pacific World) This volume is the work of a mature academic and analyst. It draws on a formidable array of conceptual, policy and historical resources and in so doing makes an invaluable contribution to our understanding of an extremely important policy and social development site... once an exemplar of equitable social development, but now, as others have noted, a paradise clearly lost. The work generates understanding of the complex interplay of policy, economics and politics and its contribution is readily transferable to other contexts... The context gives weight to the value of Professor Jayasuriya's reflective volume, not just for scholars of Sri Lankan society, but to those with an interest in the interface between public policy, economics and the real politics. The volume stands as a testimony to the value of comparative social policy. (The Island) This is a scholarly book of singular importance. It is also a powerful statement of timely significance for a deeply conflicted society that has just endured a quarter century of bloody civil war? 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unique cases, but the lessons drawn from its welfare history are by no means unique; This study provides important ideas about the interaction of states and markets in achieving relatively equitable social development; The author has achieved double success by looking how past and present interact in the social theory through a comparative lens, which reflects his deep thinking as a humane scholar. (Asia Pacific World) This volume is the work of a mature academic and analyst. It draws on a formidable array of conceptual, policy and historical resources and in so doing makes an invaluable contribution to our understanding of an extremely important policy and social development site—once an exemplar of equitable social development, but now, as others have noted, a paradise clearly lost. The work generates understanding of the complex interplay of policy, economics and politics and its contribution is readily transferable to other contexts; The context gives weight to the value of Professor Jayasuriya's reflective volume, not just for scholars of Sri Lankan society, but to those with an interest in the interface between public policy, economics and the real politics. The volume stands as a testimony to the value of comparative social policy. (The Island) About the Author Laksiri Jayasuriya, currently Emeritus Professor and Senior Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia, is a graduate of the University of Sydney, with a doctorate from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London. Previously he was the Foundation Professor of Sociology and Social Welfare at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. In Australia he held the Foundation Chair of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Western Australia. His publications include *Welfarism and Politics in Sri Lanka* (2000), *Immigration and Multiculturalism in Australia* (1997), *The Asianization of Australia? Some Facts about the Myths* (co-author, 1999), *The Changing Face of Electoral Politics in Sri Lanka* (2005) and *The Legacies of White Australia* (co-editor, 2002).