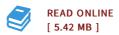




Sacred Modernity: Nature, Environment and the Postcolonial Geographies of Sri Lankan Nationhood (Hardback)

By Tariq Jazeel

Liverpool University Press, United Kingdom, 2013. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Sacred Modernity argues how everyday non-secular experiences of the natural world in Sri Lanka perpetuate ethno-religious identitarian narratives. It demonstrates the relationships between spaces of nature and environment and an ongoing aesthetic and spatial constitution of power and the political in which Theravada Buddhism is centrally implicated. To do this, the book works consecutively through two in-depth case studies, both of which are prominent sites through which Sri Lankan nature and environment are commodified: first, the country s most famous national park, Ruhuna (Yala), and second, its post-1950s modernist environmental architecture, `tropical modernism . By engaging these sites, the book reveals how commonplace historical understandings as well as commonplace material negotiations of the seductions of Sri Lankan nature are never far from the continued production of a post-independent national identity marked ethnically as Sinhalese and religiously as Buddhist. In the Sri Lankan context this minoritizes Tamil, Muslim and Christian non-Sinhala difference in the nation-state s natural, environmental and historical order of things. To make this argument, the book writes against the grain of Eurocentric social scientific understandings of the concepts nature and religion . It...



Reviews

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