

## Recent Books from Fiji – Feb 2024

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd  
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### *Economics / Development Studies*

Fiji Developing 1: The Challenges Of Growing The Fiji Economy / Wadan Narsey  
Suva, Fiji: Wadan Narsey, 2017  
xix, 434p. ; 25cm  
Include Index  
9789829811646

1. Economic development—Fiji.
2. Economic development—Economic development—Economic aspects—Fiji.
3. Fiji—Economic conditions.

\$ 80.00 / PB  
1065gm.

Professor Wadan Narseys latest book, The Challenges of Growing the Fiji Economy collects opinion pieces by him originally published in The Fiji Times, Fiji Sun, Daily Post, Island Business and Pacific Scoop between 1987 and 2018, some pieces not previously published and various submissions made to different governments over the years. This period strongly marks Professor Narseys illustrious career as an academic at the University of the South Pacific. During this period Professor Narsey was also a previous USP Director of Planning and Development (1994-1996) and a member of the Fiji parliament for the National Federation Party (1996 to 1999).

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867645>

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### *History*

Disturbing History: Resistance In Early Colonial Fiji / Robert Nicole  
Suva, Fiji: Pacific Studies Press, 2023  
310p. ; 23cm  
Include Index & Bibliography  
9789821016223

1. Insurgency—Fiji.
2. Passive resistance—Fiji.
3. Protest movements—Fiji.

\$ 40.00 / PB  
470gm.

Disturbing History focuses on Fiji's people and their agency in responding to and engaging the multifarious forms of authority and power that were manifest in the colony from 1874 to 1914. By concentrating on the lives of ordinary Fijians, the book presents alternate ways of reconstructing the island's past. Couched in the traditions of social, subaltern, and people's histories, the study is an excavation of a large mass of material that tells the often moving stories of lives that have largely been overlooked by historians. These challenge conventional historical accounts that tend to

celebrate the nation, represent Fiji's colonial experience as ordered and peaceful, or British tutelage as benevolent. In its contribution to postcolonial theory, *Disturbing History* reveals resistance as a constant but partial and untidy mix of other constituents such as collaboration, consent, appropriation, and opportunism, which together form the colonial landscape. In turn, colonialism in Fiji is shown as a force shaped in struggle, fractured and often fragile, with a presence and application in the daily lives of people that was often chaotic, imperfect, and susceptible to subversion.

The book divides the period of study into two broad categories: organized resistance and everyday forms of resistance. The first examines the Colo War (1876), the Tuka Movement (1878–1891), the Seaqaqa War (1894), the Movement for Federation with New Zealand (1901–1903), the Viti Kabani Movement (1913–1917), and the various organized labor protests. The second half of the book addresses resistance manifested in the villages and plantations, including tax and land boycotts, violence and retributive justice, avoidance protest, petitioning, and women's resistance. In their entirety these forms reveal a complex web of relationships between powerful and subordinate groups and among subordinate groups themselves. The author concludes that resistance cannot be framed as a totality but as a multilayered and multidimensional reality. In the wake of Fiji's present volatile climate, this book will aid readers in understanding the continuities and disjunctures in Fiji's interethnic and intraethnic relations.

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Cyclopedia Of Fiji

Sydney, New South Wales: The Cyclopedia Company of Fiji, 1907 (Reprinted 1984, 2023)  
366p.

Include Index

\$ 60.00 / PB

840gm.

The first half of the Cyclopedia is devoted to reviewing the geography, anthropology, history and commercial development of that "Epitome of Progress", the Colony of Fiji. The second half is largely made up of thumbnail biographies and photographic portraits of several hundred colonial officials, merchants, planters, missionaries, ships officers, overseers and artisans – the descendants of many of whom still live in Fiji – together with an handful of prominent Fijian chiefs. The book thus serves as an intriguing "Who's Who" of European settler society at the turn of the century.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867647>

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## *Linguistics*

Tuvaluan Dictionary: Tuvaluan – English, English – Tuvaluan / Geoffrey W. Jackson

Suva, Fiji: Pacific Studies Press, 2023

Re-published.

448p. ; 28cm

9789821016063

1. Tuvaluan language—Dictionaries—English.
2. English language—Dictionaries—Tuvaluan.
3. English language.
4. Tuvaluan language.

\$ 50.00/ PB

580gm.

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## *Literature*

Na Duna Navatu: A Fiji Tale: The Fall That Preceded The Rise / Blair Robertson

Fiji: New Fossil Productions Pte Ltd, 2023

340p.

9789821011822

1. Fijian fiction,

2. Fiji-Fiction.

\$ 35.00/ PB

440gm.

Seven hundred years after first landing, the maritime people of the shark, serpent and whale totems harvested the lands and seas of the Fijian archipelago. There was disunity across the land as one man's greed slowly destroyed what was once great. Then there were rumors of new arrivals from the western lands across the great sea; a warring nation of eel warriors. Predictable lives quickly become a struggle of life over death for Tui, Pio and Keli, as the day of first harvest looms. The daily grind as a mother and dutiful wife was becoming a torment for Tui Cavubati. But soon after the 1999AD elections, she finds a cave entrance at Kulukulu that opens a portal to a time long past. Someone or something is trying to tell her something. Na Duna Navatu is a story about a struggle which took place long ago, buried under the sands of Sigatoka and Natadola in western Viti Levu.

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