Cultural politics: Discord and factionalism in New Caledonia, 1919 to 1993.


Abstract

This thesis focuses on the activities of a group of young French people staying in a hostel in Noumea from 1991 to 1993. It draws on my fieldwork in Noumea and Mare in the Loyalty Islands of New Caledonia. The main part of the thesis looks at the interactions of this group of young people with other ethnic and social groups living in New Caledonia. These include the Kanaks, the "Caldoches" (native-born Caledonians of French origin), the "Metros" (immigrants from metropolitan France), Pacific islanders, Vietnamese and Indonesians. The thesis also includes a short section describing Mare itself and my fieldwork there. Particular attention is paid to the Kanaks and to the Caldoches, whose rural and urban lifestyles are compared and contrasted to those of the young people being studied. Relations between these young people, newly arrived in the French Pacific, and those of the colony's established inhabitants, allow themes of globalization, travel, knowledge, reflexivity and alterity to be explored vis-a-vis anthropological theory. Kanak behaviour, towards Kanaks and others, is shown to relate to ideas of knowledge, power, gender and hierarchy, prevalent in both Polynesia and Melanesia. The work is underpinned by explanations of, and references to, the international and local historical and geographical context of New Caledonian social and political behaviour. It attempts to show the bitter disputes and resentments arising between ethnic groups. It discusses civil unrest, the Kanaks' desire for independence, and some possible economic and social consequences.

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politics of emotion, which secure the white subject as sovereign in the nation, at the same time as they generate effects in the alignment of ‘you’ with the national body. In other words, the ‘you’ implicitly evokes a ‘we’, a group of subjects who can identify themselves with the injured nation in this performance of personal injury. New Caledonia is a French sui generis collectivity with a system of government based on parliamentarism and representative democracy. The President of the Government is the head of government, and there is a multi-party system, with Executive power being exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Congress of New Caledonia. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. Able to learn new skills and acquire new knowledge, including in the spheres not connected with the main direction of his studies. Able to identify the scientific meaning of problems in his/her professional sphere. Able to resolve problems in his/her professional sphere on the basis of analysis and synthesis. YK-5, YK-6 YK-9 YK-10. - Pipes, Richard. Russia under the Bolshevik Regime. 1919-1924. New York: Knopf, 1994. - Stone, Norman. The Eastern Front. - Fitzpatrick, Sheila. The Cultural Front. Power and Culture in Revolutionary Russia. Cornell University Press, 1992. - Fitzpatrick, Sheila. The Crisis of Russian Democracy: The Dual State, Factionalism and the Medvedev Succession. Cambridge University Press, 2011. - Service, Robert. The suddenness with which political correctness entered the public domain in the period between 1989-1991, and the ensuing arguments about the legitimacy of Western culture which lasted until well into the mid 1990s, implies that the concept of political correctness is a very recent phenomenon, the origins of which are to be found in certain intellectual trends of the late twentieth-century. The consequences were profound. By insisting on party unity at all costs and instilling fear of factionalism, Lenin made serious intellectual discussion impossible. Absolute theoretical certainty or rather the belief that the party had uncovered the laws of historical progress justified all means necessary to bring about the new society.