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OLD CITIES, NEW PREDICAMENTS - A STUDY OF HYDERABAD - NAIDU,R

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Book Reviews

OLD CITIES, NEW PREDICAMENTS: A Study of Hyderabad. *By Ratna Naidu. Newbury Park (California): Sage Publications, Inc. 1990. 177 pp. (Maps, tables.) US\$27.50, cloth. ISBN 0-8039-9658-6.*

THIS BOOK is an excellent and highly significant study of the old walled city of Hyderabad, India. Hyderabad has been the scene of rising communal violence in recent years, and this study focusses upon the Muslim/Hindu displacements in the densely populated old city after its incorporation into newly independent India in 1948. Formerly capital of Hyderabad State, ruled by the Nizam and a largely Muslim nobility, Hyderabad is now the capital of the Teluga-speaking state of Andhra Pradesh. Naidu masterfully shows the ways in which urban decay, demography, and politics have become intertwined. One cannot do justice to this impressive book in a brief review, but let me try.

Methodologically, the research is both meticulous and exhaustive. Naidu and her team of some thirty people conducted a systematic random sample of households in the four wards of the inner (formerly walled) city: they divided the almost 241,000 (in 1981) inhabitants into three groups of enumerator blocks (from the census/electoral rolls) according to the population of Hindus and Muslims residing in each block. They also used secondary data from numerous municipal offices and conducted a survey of mosques and temples, and they made extensive use of historical resources such as past local census records and a detailed 1911 municipal map. The result is detailed documentation of current socioeconomic attributes of the residents and of historical patterns of caste and religious communities and religious institutions in the walled city.

Naidu explains the institutionalization of communal politics by the rising number of mosques and temples, the expanded and increasingly aggressive religious processions, and, most of all, several recent delimitations of constituency boundaries in the old city that have polarized electorates into near-equal communal halves. She makes urgent policy recommendations aimed at the restoration of the old city as a healthy environment in every way for its residents. There are three excellent maps packed with information; while the footnotes are printed at the bottom of the pages, there is no bibliography. This is a must-read book for South Asianists and comparativists from many disciplines.

University of California, Irvine, U.S.A.

KAREN LEONARD

TWENTY MILLION CHINESE MADE IN TAIWAN. *By Jules Nadeau. Translated by David Homel. Montreal: Presse Québec / Amérique. 1988-1989. 366 pp. (Photos.) C\$19.95, paper. ISBN 2-920948-09-1.*

THIS BOOK can be described as part travelogue, part history, part politics, and part culture. It was written (originally in French) by a Canadian reporter who spent several years teaching in Taiwan in the early 1980s.