Only an investigator who combined great sophistication in the intricacies of the cultures and societies in India with a talent for dealing with complex societies could have produced this clear, concise, and salient analysis. Furthermore, Mayer does not assume his readers are specialists in these matters.

In the decade since this field study was made, controversies over the always important political and economic statuses of Fiji Indians in the Colony have become so intensified that they have reached a critical state. However timely the appearance of this book is in this respect, Mayer has deliberately steered clear of these inflamed issues, and by objectively concentrating on a remarkably cogent analysis of the rural peasantry, with very little reference to policies of the Fiji Government, he has helped illuminate the current political crisis without taking a partisan stance.

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