A MELANESIA BIBLIOGRAPHY

Selected References for Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Irian Jaya
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Selected References for Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Irian Jaya

by

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Honolulu, Hawaii

May 1984
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INTRODUCTION

This bibliography was compiled to provide students of Melanesia with an introduction to the literature on an important sub-region of Oceania. Much more has been written about Melanesia than about Polynesia or Micronesia. This is not surprising considering the size of the states and territories of Melanesia relative to other Pacific Island entities. Thus, over 80 percent of all Pacific Islanders reside in the independent countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, the French territory of New Caledonia, and the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya. The combined land area of these entities represents about 98 percent of the total land area of the Pacific Islands.

Melanesia is treated apart from the rest of Oceania for the purposes of the bibliography primarily because this reflects a useful convention in the literature it surveys. The convention has arisen because of certain important characteristics that serve to distinguish the region from surrounding areas. The dark skin color of its inhabitants is only the most obvious such characteristic. This, along with the virtual absence of centralized "traditional" political systems based on hereditary chiefs, provides the main justifications for distinguishing Melanesian societies from those of Polynesia to the east. More generally, the extreme linguistic and cultural fragmentation of Melanesia is in contrast to the relative homogeneity of Polynesia. The large size and mountainous topography of many Melanesian islands provide an additional geographical reason for considering Melanesia separately from both Polynesia and Micronesia, the proliferation of small, scattered islands to the north. But perhaps the most compelling reason for treating Melanesia on its own is the growing sense of a separate identity among Melanesians. The concept
of the Melanesian Alliance, promoted most vigorously in recent years by Vanuatu Prime Minister, Walter Lini, is but the latest in a series of manifestations of a significant Melanesian self-consciousness.

If the internal shared characteristics are significant enough to justify separate treatment for Melanesia, the boundaries of the region remain somewhat arbitrary. While Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia are clearly part of Melanesia according to most criteria, Fiji's status is more problematic. The indigenous population of Fiji has, despite some linguistic, cultural and physical variation, a much more homogeneous tradition than that of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands or Vanuatu. In addition, the "traditional" political organization certainly shows Tongan and perhaps other Polynesian influences especially in the eastern part of the island group. On the other hand, some characteristics, notably the physical appearance of many Fijians, suggest a Melanesian affinity. For present purposes, we have followed the example set in some of the best general sources on Melanesia (e.g. Brookfield's Melanesia and Chowning's Introduction to the Peoples and Cultures of Melanesia) and included the rich literature on Fiji.

It is not easy to determine exactly where the western boundary of Melanesia lies since here the linguistic, cultural, ethnic and geographical signals become most confused. But it is quite clear that most (if not all) of what is now the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya can be regarded as an integral part of Melanesia even if its political connections with Asia have served to exclude it from many general works on the Pacific. Thus, we have included Irian Jaya in this bibliography.

The bibliography contains, in the authors' view, the major contributions to the literature on Melanesia. We have tried to provide as wide a topical coverage as possible so that readers can choose selectively according
to their interests. However, this has not always been easy since most of the published sources are ethnographies. We have attempted to counter this inevitable anthropological bias by including works on other topics where these are available. Publications on change and development, politics and economics have tended to appear just prior to independence or shortly thereafter. Political "crises," such as secessionist unrest in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, or independence struggles in Irian Jaya and New Caledonia also tend to precipitate a surge of non-anthropological analyses.

Variations in geographical coverage are also apparent in the literature on Melanesia and are inevitably reflected in this bibliography. Thus Papua New Guinea is by far the best documented country in the region, while the number of works on Vanuatu, Irian Jaya and Solomon Islands is meager by comparison. Our listings for the latter countries therefore represent a larger proportion of the total literature available and the listings for Papua New Guinea and Fiji are more selective.

The bibliography is divided into nine sections. The first identifies general sources on Oceania that focus to some extent on Melanesia. The second section lists some general sources on Melanesia. Sections three through eight are devoted to the literature specific to the countries and territories of Melanesia: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Irian Jaya. A guide to some currently-published (May 1984) periodicals of interest to students of Melanesia precedes the bibliography proper.

This project arose from work undertaken by the authors in preparing "Melanesia: A Bibliographic Essay" for inclusion in a collection edited by Miles Jackson and entitled Handbook of Resources for Pacific Studies. This will be published by Greenwood Press in 1984.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PUBLISHER</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Journal of Politics and History</td>
<td>University of Queensland Press, P.O Box 42, St Lucia 4067 Queensland</td>
<td>3X year</td>
<td>Scholarly journal which publishes Papua New Guinea political chronicles regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Outlook</td>
<td>Australian Institute of International Affairs, Box E 181, QVT P.O Box 160, Canberra, 2600</td>
<td>3X year</td>
<td>Occasional articles on Melanesian countries, particularly PNG. Useful Book Review section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Yearbook</td>
<td>Far Eastern Economic Review, GPO Box 160, Hong Kong</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Comprehensive summary of events and trends in Asia. Includes a section on PNG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bikmaus</td>
<td>INTERS, P.O 1432, Boroko, PNG</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>A journal of PNG affairs, ideas and the arts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fiji Society: Transactions and Proceedings</td>
<td>The Fiji Society, P.O Box 1205, Suva</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Contains scholarly papers presented to the society's meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fiji Sun</td>
<td>Newspapers of Fiji, P.O Box 354, Suva</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Newspaper of Fiji.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fiji Times</td>
<td>GPO Box 1167, Gordon St., Suva</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Old-established newspaper of Fiji.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islands Business</td>
<td>News (South Pacific) Ltd. P.O Box 5176, Raiwaqa, Suva</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>News magazine with articles on Current affairs in the Pacific Islands, including Melanesia. Less news and more investigative reporting than Pacific Islands Monthly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Journal of Pacific History</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Scholarly articles on historical and contemporary issues in the Pacific, including Melanesia. Excellent annual bibliography.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand International Review</td>
<td>6X year</td>
<td>Articles on Melanesian countries from time to time.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Niugini Nius</td>
<td>3X week</td>
<td>One of the English-language newspapers of PNG.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>A journal of anthropology in the Pacific Islands including Melanesia.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Islands Monthly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Leading newsmagazine with the best general coverage of all the Pacific Islands.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islands Yearbook</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Invaluable source of information on Melanesian countries.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Magazine</td>
<td>2X month</td>
<td>Articles and news reports on the Pacific Islands with some Melanesian material.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Perspective</td>
<td>2X year</td>
<td>Articles by Pacific Islanders on contemporary issues. Includes Melanesian material.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Studies</td>
<td>2X year</td>
<td>Scholarly journal focussing on Polynesia but with increasing attention to Melanesia.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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| **Papua New Guinea Post-Courier** | P.O Box 85  
Port Moresby | Daily | Longest-established English-language newspaper of PNG. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| **Research in Melanesia** | Department of Anthropology,  
P.O Box 320, University,  
Papua New Guinea | Quarterly | Journal of social science research in PNG. Emphasis on anthropology. Lists research projects and recent publications. Useful information for intending researchers in PNG. |
| **Solomon Star** | P.O Box 255, Honiara | Weekly | Solomon Islands newspaper published in English. |
| **The South Pacific Bulletin** | South Pacific Commission, Box 306, Haymarket, New South Wales 2000 | Quarterly | Articles and news on SPC regional activities. |
| **The South Sea Digest** | Pacific Publications, GPO Box 3408, Sydney 2001 | 2X month | Brief but valuable newsletter on current affairs in the Pacific Islands including Melanesia from the publishers of Pacific Islands Monthly. |
| **Tam-Tam** | P.O Box 927, Vila, Vanuatu | Weekly | Government-owned Vanuatu newspaper published in Bislama, English and French. |
| **The Times of Papua New Guinea** | P.O Box 1982 Boroko, PNG | 2X week | PNG newspaper noted for its investigative reporting and in-depth articles. |
| **Yagl-Ambu** | Box 320, University P.O, PNG | Quarterly | Academic journal of the social sciences and humanities in PNG. |
General Sources on the Pacific with Melanesian Relevance


Crocombe, R.G. 1978. The New South Pacific. Wellington: Reed Education in Association with the University of the South Pacific.


General Melanesia


Papua New Guinea


Pacific Islands Development Program East-West Center


Inglis, K.S. (ed.). 1969. The History of Melanesia. Port Moresby and Canberra: UPNG and the Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU.


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Solomon Islands


Markham, A. 1873. The Cruise of "Rosario" amongst the New Hebrides and Santa Cruz Islands. Exposing the Recent Atrocities Connected with the Kidnapping of Natives in the South Seas. London: S. Low, Marston, Low & Searle. 304p.


Vanuatu


New Caledonia


Irian Java


Irian: Bulletin of Irian Jaya. Produced by the Institute for Anthropology, Cenderawasih University. (Since 1971, 3 times per annum).


Pacific Islands Development Program
East-West Center


EAST-WEST CENTER

The East-West Center is a public, nonprofit educational institution with an international board of governors. Some 2,000 research fellows, graduate students, and professionals in business and government each year work with the Center's international staff in cooperative study, training, and research. They examine major issues related to population, resources and development, the environment, culture, and communication in Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. The Center was established in 1960 by the United States Congress, which provides principal funding. Support also comes from more than 20 Asian and Pacific governments, as well as private agencies and corporations.

Situated on 21 acres adjacent to the University of Hawaii's Manoa Campus, the Center's facilities include a 300-room office building housing research and administrative offices for an international staff of 250, three residence halls for participants, and a conference center with meeting rooms equipped to provide simultaneous translation and a complete range of audiovisual services.
PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) at the East-West Center helps meet the special development needs of the Pacific islands region through cooperative research, education, and training. PIDP also serves as the Secretariat for the Pacific Islands Conference, a heads of government organization involving leaders from throughout the Pacific region, and for the Pacific Islands Conference Standing Committee, which was established to ensure follow-up on development problems discussed at the 1980 Conference.

PIDP's research, education, and training activities are developed as a direct response to requests from the Standing Committee. PIDP's projects are planned in close cooperation with the Committee to ensure that the focus and the organization of each project address the needs identified by the heads of government on the Committee, a process which is unique within the East-West Center and in other research and educational organizations serving the Pacific.

A major objective of the program has been to provide quality in-depth analytical studies on specific priority issues as identified by the Pacific island leaders and people. The aim is to provide leaders with detailed information and alternative strategies on policy issues. Each island country will make its own decision based on national goals and objectives. Since 1980, PIDP has been given the task of research in eight project areas: energy, disaster preparedness, aquaculture, government and administrative systems, nuclear waste disposal, business ventures development and management, roles of multinational corporations, and regional cooperation.