



Nation-building and National Identity in Timor-Leste

Michael Leach



Timor-Leste's long journey to nationhood spans 450 years of colonial rule by Portugal, a short-lived independence in 1975, and a 24-year occupation by Indonesia. This book examines the history of nation-building and national identity in Timor-Leste, and the evolution of a collective identity through two consecutive colonial occupations, and into the post-independence era. It charts the evolution of the idea of an East Timorese nation: its origins, its sources, and its competitors in traditional understandings of political community, and the distinct colonial visions imposed by Portugal or Indonesia. The author analyses the evolution of ideas of collective identity under the long era of Portuguese colonial rule, and through the 24-year struggle for independence from Indonesia from 1975 to 1999. Reflecting the contested history of the territory, these include successive attempts to define its members as colonial subjects in a wider 'pluri-racial Portuguese empire, as citizens in an 'integrated province of the Republic of Indonesia - and, of course, as a nation that demanded its right to self-determination. Finally, the host of nation-building tensions and fault lines that emerged after the restoration of independence in 2002 are discussed. Examining the history of debates and conflict over national identity, national history, cultural heritage, language policy, and relationships between distinct regions, generations, and language groups, this book will be of interest to academics in the fields of Asian Studies, Nationalism studies, and International and Community Development.

- [Natural Beauty : Naturkosmetik zum Selbermachen. Mit Kokosol zum Glow](#)
- [National Directory of Nonprofit Organizations 21 V2](#)
- [Natural Wonders of Vermont : A Guide to Parks, Preserves and Wild Places](#)
- [Natural History of Marine Animals](#)
- [The Naturalist of the Saint Croix : Memoir of George A. Boardman](#)
- [National Test Papers 2008 Edition \(KS1 English/Maths\) : KS1 English/Maths \(QCA\)](#)
- [The National Preacher and the Prayer-Meeting, Vol. 39 : May and June, 1865 \(Classic Reprint\)](#)