

# The Northern Nadars Of Tamil Nadu

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dennis templeman examines the changes in the northern nadars local caste associations in the twentieth century in an effort to analyze the upward mobility of the nadars in terms of status power and wealth

among the various communities of south india the nadars have perhaps most clearly evidenced the impact of change over the past 200 years considered by high caste hindus in the early nineteenth century to be of extremely low status the nadars toddy tappers climbers of the palmyra palm suffered severe social disabilities and were among the most depressed communities in the tamil country because of their sensitive response to social and economic change over the past century and a half the nadars have today become one of the most successful groups in the south in both economic and political terms and considerable command respect from among their numbers have come leaders in business industry and the professions and in politics kamaraj their illustrious son brought fame to the caste as chief minister of madras and as president of the indian national congress the nadars have had a turbulent and colourful history their struggle to rise above their

depressed condition assumed dramatic forms in a series of escalating confrontations between the caste and its antagonists from the breast cloth controversy through the sack of sivakasi to the nadar mahajana sangam the nadars rise exemplifying the processes of mobilization in indian society provides rich material for an analysis of the political life of a community in change when the book was first published in 1969 lloyd rudolph wrote hardgrave illuminates in ways hitherto unexplored the processes of social and political change that have so profoundly affected india i judge his book to be one of the most important and exciting studies in the indian field in recent years with this reissue the nadars of tamilnad is again available and its compelling portrayal of a caste in transition stands as one reviewer wrote one of the landmarks in south indian social history

studies of ethnic politics have for long focused on how governments and ethnic leaders interact this book examines how the interactions of parties and society continually reshape ethnic identities and redirect ethnic politics by exploring the course taken by the dravidian parties of south india it shows how citizens and leaders may act to preserve tolerance and democracy amidst considerable ethnic mobilization even if governments are unable or unwilling to do so a wide range of sources are used ranging from electoral data newspapers and political tracts to films and interviews with activists methods drawn from political science sociology and historical anthropology help account for the effects of political mobilization on popular mentalities and civil society south indian experiences are illuminated by comparisons with changes elsewhere in south asia and in latin america and europe the book suggests new approaches to making theory in the social sciences

the village has epitomized indian civilization and been the subject of much study and contemplation the present volume attempts to address a wide number of interests economic political cultural social gender and presents a profile of processes and change in indian villages based on publications over the last fifty years the essays clearly demonstrate that every indian village although similar in many ways is also characterised by regional variations

carefully crafted entries on the history philosophy and evolution of the martial arts worldwide including contemporary practice

contributed articles on people with social disabilities and various social classes and the government policies in india

throughout the world societies based on hunting and gathering have been drawn into the market economy due to increasing social and economic pressure on their territories this anthropological study analyzes this process in the 1990s among the paliyans of

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