

Sara N. Amin, Danielle Watson, & Christian Girard (2020). *Mapping security in the Pacific: A focus on context, gender and organisational culture*. London: Routledge. 264pp. ISBN: 978-0-3671-4392-3. hbk: £120; e-book £33.39.

This book undertakes the complex task of mapping security in the geographically dispersed and culturally diverse Pacific. The book is divided into three key parts. The first looks at reframing security in the Pacific, with contributions taking a broad understanding of security. The second examines gendered insecurities in the Pacific context, through critically examining intersecting challenges affecting the region, with cases from Fiji, Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Tonga. The third explores organisational culture, security providers, partner institutions and security outcomes relevant to the Pacific region.

The introductory chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the complexities, causes and inter-relatedness of security concerns in the Pacific. It connects traditional security discourse to human security, inadvertently connecting the regional to local while simultaneously connecting it with global priorities. It also paves the pathway for insightful theoretical and empirical contributions from both emerging and established scholars who continue to work on issues relevant to security in the Pacific region. Chapter 2 conceptually situates discourses of security, perceptions of insecurity and expands on traditional notions of security across disciplines. Carnegie and King emphasise that large ocean Pacific Island states are not monolithic and argues that challenges to their vulnerability and precariousness are difficult to encapsulate given the everchanging geopolitical and natural landscape. Chapter 3 by Dornan focuses on economic insecurities in the Pacific associated with dispersed populations, fragile infrastructure, and small undiversified livelihood sources. The author emphasises that Pacific Island states are vulnerable to economic shocks because of their size and location and are often forced to rely on subsistence agriculture and traditional social protection systems in the face of any crisis. Dornan argues for formal social protection mechanisms that incorporate traditional social protection systems to safeguard human security in the face of multiple economic insecurities burdening the Pacific. In Chapter 4, Greg Dvorak brings to attention the global political economy that influences Pacific security. It highlights the influential role of China, USA and other developed countries in Oceania. It uses the example of the Marshall Islands, its complex relationship with the USA and its fight for justice to safeguard it for future generations. The chapter also amplifies an intergenerational narrative of activism that continue across generations of Marshallese, driven by stories of hope and resistance. Chand and Taupo's chapter concludes the first section. It builds on the security challenges induced by climate change and natural disasters using case studies from Kiribati and Tuvalu. For such atoll nations, the challenges around food security, water security, biodiversity and ecosystems, sovereignty of land and the potential of relocation are an ongoing threat that requires targeted and accelerated international action.

The second section on gendered insecurity in the Pacific starts with Penelope Schoeffel's chapter that emphasises the need for feminisation of security and how human security continues to disregard gendered disparities. The chapter progresses to connect global gender equality commitments with regional commitments and emphasises how incoming aid can be meaningfully directed towards effective policy responses in the Pacific context. Chapter 7, by Amin, Trussler and Johnson, uses Fiji as a case study to map gendered insecurities particularly emphasizing sexual and gender-based violence as a product of social prejudice. The chapter provides theoretical connections to understand root causes of gendered disparities within social and cultural settings. It also argues that efforts need to be directed towards prevention of sexual and gender-based violence against women and LGBTIQ communities

through attitude and behaviour change. Chapter 8 is focused on gendered insecurities within post-conflict settings of Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. George argues that, despite security sector reforms to address violent conflict and to improve gender balance within the ranks, there remains a gap in holistically addressing social components of gendered insecurity. In Chapter 9, the contributors use the case of Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji to amplify instances of gendered vulnerability during natural disasters, recovery, and rebuilding processes. Chapter 10 by Richard Davis explores the crucial role of faith and how it can be transformative to personal security, especially for women, within the context of PICs. Increasingly, faith-based groups in the Pacific have become major development and implementation partners within community settings. Addressing gendered insecurities would be an additional contribution. The final chapter in this section, by Amin and Girard, looks at the insecurities of the *leiti* (transgender) community in the Kingdom of Tonga. The chapter provides a critical analysis of how religion and colonisation have negatively impacted the traditional value of *leitis* in Tonga.

The third section on organisational culture, security providers, partner institutions and security outcomes span across research themes on sorcery and community policing to rising authoritarian regimes and militarisation in the region. Chapter 12, by Watson and Dinnen discuss policing in the Melanesian context by iterating the various social political and historical challenges locally as sources of insecurities. Forsyth's chapter examines Papua New Guinea's handling of sorcery allegations and related violence by acknowledging gaps within policing infrastructure. It elaborates on the need to reprioritise police action to be care driven and informed by traditional, religious and customary practices. Chapter 14, by Sinclair Dinnen, continues to elaborate on PNGs challenging but changing security industry, with the exponential growth in private security industry due to declining effectiveness of national police. Dinnen's chapter provides a political economy analysis of the multi-layered and changing national security landscape which continues to shape regional (in)security. Natasha Khan's chapter provides an overview of Fiji's military since establishment in 1871, its role in national coups and how a reform is timely and crucial to de-politicise Fiji's military forces. The final chapter in this section by Watson and Johnson brings insights from Guam's restructuring of security structures to actively incorporate traditional and communal policing, largely through an in-depth interview with Guam's Governor, Joseph Cruz. The chapter is perceptive and elaborates on the need for holistic police reform which is grounded in collaboration with community and security sector stakeholders alike.

Editors Amin, Girard and Watson brilliantly conclude the collection by emphasising the complexities of understanding (in)security in the Pacific and the need to reconfigure priorities to reflect political economy imperatives. The book provides detailed insights on the multifaceted complexities of security in the Pacific, it would have been interesting to see its analysis extended to examine how this impacts Pacific regionalism and evolving global political economy debates. Still, the volume provides critical theoretical and empirical insights on the multidimensional, intersectional, and transformational nature of security, essential to a holistic understanding of regional challenges and opportunities. In linking traditional discourses of security with human security linked to health, food, personal, political, economic and environmental security, this book contributes to the expansive understanding of security in the Pacific. *Mapping security in the Pacific* is a highly recommended resource for researchers across disciplines, development partners and policy makers working or interested in the region.

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