

# JUNE 2010 - Volume 1, Number 1

## Editorial

The Social Sciences carry some degree of responsibility in influencing the direction a society may move. One may even call the responsibility a burden. A journal of the Social Sciences does not merely chronicle, observe or analyse, it engages with the crucial questions facing society. It, therefore, provides real insight that can be a catalyst for real change in society. *IJESS*, hopes to be a source of scholarship and insight that can inform our understanding of society and inspire change.

Issues related to ethnicity are vitally important, not just in post-war Sri Lanka, where the ethnic issues related to the conflict holds a prominent place in political debate and academic analysis, but also in many other parts of the world. However, there are other significant aspects of society that require academic research, analysis and discussion; without these our understanding will be limited, and our influence reduced. The scope of *IJESS* has therefore widened to include not just ethnicity but all of society. While the commitment to the study of ethnicity remains, the Journal encourages contributions on the full spectrum of social dynamics and intends fostering research with an interdisciplinary focus.

*IJESS* has also made a move towards a peer-review process. The review panel of reputed scholars—local and international—which the Journal is building up will raise the profile of the Journal globally, so that it can be the international journal it declares itself to be. Such peer-review ensures that our articles will be assessed by those with expertise in the relevant fields of research, and assures the reliability and quality of the research we present to our readers.

As the title indicates, the scope of *IJESS* includes international scholarly research, widening the geographical range of contributors, perspectives, and subject matter. In this issue the articles from national and international contributors focus on four different nations, and

while three of the articles focus on issues related to conflict and war, one focuses instead on an industry that affects two of the nations.

Gananath Obeyesekere's article is timely, in the context of a post-war Sri Lanka, as it critiques the nature of cycles of revenge and violence and examines a way in which these cycles can be interrupted through gestures of trust. Andrew Ward's interdisciplinary examination focuses on a conflict-ridden Afghanistan, suggesting a development programme that will permit an increase in civil liberties and a growth in industry. An important fallout of war—the destruction of historical and cultural heritages of nations—is the focus of Nancy Wilkie's article, which examines the devastation occurring in Iraq during the wars of 1990 and 2003. Finally, Kalyan Das' article, arising out of research carried out in India and Sri Lanka, and of relevance to both nations, examines the nature of Tea Smallholdings, and the value of these alternative forms for the tea industry.

Scholarship is carried out for various reasons and with diverse motives. The highest of these, I believe, are the hope of contributing to our understanding of the world and the intention of encouraging further dialogue, with an ultimate hope of change. Jonathan Swift's satire of society in *Gulliver's Travels*, first published in 1726, does not exclude academic research. The satire sustains its potency through the centuries and includes a description of hopelessly impractical research to extract sunbeams from cucumbers, to be sealed in phials for later use in the Governor's gardens. It hardly needs to be stated that the vision of *IJESS* rests far from ambitions and research of this nature. We want, above all, to be engaged, relevant and useful. Our vision for *IJESS* is that it may sow seeds of academic thought and blow winds of change through the structures of society.

INTERNATIONAL  
JOURNAL OF  
ETHNIC AND  
SOCIAL  
STUDIES

---

VOLUME I

NUMBER 1

JUNE 2010

---

CONTENTS

- v Editorial
- vii Acknowledgements
- ix Message from the Editor of *Ethnic Studies Report*
- 1 The Smallholding Tea Plantations of Sri Lanka and Assam  
Kalyan Das
- 41 The Demoness Kālī and the Lord Buddha: Sense and Reference in a  
Buddhist Text on Revenge and Violence  
Gananath Obeyesekere
- 73 Addressing the Past and Considering the Future: An  
Interdisciplinary Examination of Afghanistan's Development  
Andrew M. Ward
- 109 World Heritage at Risk: The Destruction of Iraq's Cultural Heritage  
Nancy C. Wilkie
- 147 Review Article: "Sri Lanka's War Inflicted Economy" on  
*Development Under Stress: Sri Lankan Economy in Transition* by Saman  
Kelegama  
Nimal Sanderatne



# Addressing the Past and Considering the Future: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Afghanistan's Development

Andrew M. Ward

---

## Abstract

Afghanistan is in dire need of an efficient and effective, broad-based, sustainable development programme. This study seeks to examine the possible contributions that certain key development theorists could make to such a plan. The paper is divided into three sections: Part One: 'Background', Part Two: 'Analysis of Four Theoretical Frameworks', and Part Three: 'The Model'.

Part One: 'Background' describes the past events that are most relevant to Afghanistan's currently abysmal development performance. Drawing from a multitude of sources within a broad selection of academic disciplines, a clear understanding of the historical, political, social and economic factors that led to the Afghanistan of today is gained. Such an in-depth description of Afghanistan's history is vital to this study as, "the devil really is in the details [and] summary arguments may be more persuasive after digesting the empirical details" (Kohli, 2004: p. 9). It is important to be fully aware of the patterns of state construction and intervention that have occurred over the generations which have contributed to the 'core character' of the Afghan state. The section ends with a detailed description of the nation's current standing according to a number of indices.

Part Two: 'Analysis of Four Theoretical Frameworks' examines the ideas put forth by prominent theorists Atul Kohli, Amartya Sen, Arjun Appadurai and William Easterly concerning development. Their theories will be considered in light of the specific issues plaguing Afghanistan detailed in Part One. It is precisely because there are substantial differences between the speculations of

these four writers that they have been chosen; somewhere betwixt the extremes must lay the truth.

Part Three: 'The Model' proposes a development programme which addresses the needs of Afghanistan from an interdisciplinary standpoint. Aspects of each of the theories discussed in Part Two are combined into this single model which incorporates a large number of country-specific strategies. A three-step process which allows for increased civil liberties as industrial growth accelerates is proposed. It is the opinion of this writer that each of the four theorists sees a portion of the process of development correctly; the goal, therefore, is to combine them, each in the proper proportion. Even then the process is not complete, and the dimension of a timescale is included to maximise the effectiveness of the planned model. A short conclusion follows.

---

Andrew M. Ward is a doctoral candidate at the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. He is researching the role of civil liberties in the first stages of sustainable human development.

# The Demoness Kālī and the Lord Buddha: Sense and Reference in a Buddhist Text on Revenge and Violence

Gananath Obeyesekere

---

## Abstract

This essay deals with a popular story from the Buddhist tradition, which presents two women who, owing to their vows of vengeance, are born and reborn as enemies, perpetuating a long cycle of violence. This cycle can only be broken by a gesture of thrust, in this case initiated by the Buddha. The paper examines the immediate meaning or 'sense' of the text and the 'reference' of the text that opens a window to our contemporary society, embroiled in political violence. It further deals with issues of conscience expressed in story-telling and the demise of that tradition. It concludes by examining the current trend of planting of Buddha statues all over the Island and the Buddha becoming, as it were, the flag of an imagined Sinhala-Buddhist nation.

Gananath Obeyesekere is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University from where he retired in 2000 after having taught there for 20 years. He has taught at the University of Peradeniya, University of Washington and University of California San Diego.

# The Smallholding Tea Plantations of Sri Lanka and Assam

Kalyan Das

---

## Abstract

The tea production structures in the dominant regions of production of the world show a shift from estate sector to smallholdings. What are the factors that could explain the growth of the tea smallholdings in recent times? Are small firms a more flexible and efficient answer in this competitive world? Does a rise in higher productivity and efficiency ensure wellbeing of the workers involved in the unregulated work environment of smallholdings? These are some important questions that arise when considering the emerging regime of tea smallholdings in Sri Lanka and Assam in India. This article tries to construct the space for smallholding as a production mode in the tea plantation sector, which, since inception, has been dominated by the estate sector. At present, it is evident that in the liberalised economic environment, countries are ushering more growth through the small firm variant flexible mode of production. This paper presents tea smallholdings as a flexible production mode, which nevertheless keeps the scope for regulatory supports to ensure sustainability. The factors leading to the origin, growth and consolidation of smallholding tea plantations in Sri Lanka and Assam, and a primary survey that explores the operational aspects of tea smallholdings reveal the need of institutional supports to ensure sustainability and wellbeing for the people involved in this sector. The paper concludes by suggesting recommendations along two lines. The smallholdings could be made efficient by the provision of real and regulatory services rather than financial incentives and subsidies. Regulations are also required in order to make a gain in wages and potential benefits feasible for workers through the efficiency gain in the smallholdings.

Kalyan Das is with OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, Assam, India. This paper is based on the work done by the author at ICES, Kandy during 2005.

# World Heritage at Risk: The Destruction of Iraq's Cultural Heritage

Nancy C. Wilkie

---

## Abstract

Threats to the preservation of cultural heritage have increased worldwide in recent years, due in part to an increase in agricultural and development activities but even more significantly as the result of military conflict. This article examines the destruction of Iraq's heritage during the Gulf War of 1990, and especially during the Iraq War of 2003. The first section of it discusses the looting of the Iraq National Museum and subsequent efforts to recover antiquities stolen from it. The article then looks at the damage done to archaeological sites, both as the result of military activity and through wanton looting. Next it examines the effectiveness of legislation intended to protect cultural heritage and of restrictions on the importation of Iraqi antiquities, suggesting that blame for the destruction of Iraq's cultural heritage must be shared by many parties including the former Baathist regime, archaeologists who participate in the art market, and museums and collectors who buy unprovenanced antiquities. The paper concludes by arguing that in the future 'source countries' such as Iraq must find better ways to protect their cultural heritage, but even more importantly, 'market countries' must bring an end to the importation and sale of unprovenanced antiquities within their borders.

Nancy C. Wilkie is William H. Laird Professor of Classics, Anthropology and the Liberal Arts, Carleton College, Northfield, MN, USA.