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Diminishing Conflicts in Asia and the Pacific
Why some subside and others don’t
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Acknowledgements

The idea for this book began when a student asked a question at a class in a course on ethnic conflict at the Australian National University (ANU). Why, she asked, had the secessionist conflict in the Punjab declined, while so many others that we had been studying in the course had remained intractable? Each of us, teaching in that course, thought the question worth exploring more. The question led to a lecture series, two workshops and, eventually, this book.

In pulling together this collective effort we drew mostly upon lecturers and authors who were our colleagues at the ANU. The College of Asia and the Pacific at the ANU contains an extraordinary range of expertise on all major zones and countries of the region, and we feel very privileged to work, or to have worked, in such a stimulating environment. The College is not only a laboratory where great individual scholars produce great works of scholarship on particular countries, but also a melting pot of disciplines and regional expertise, allowing insightful comparative work and the identification of broad trends. We hope this book is, in a small way, a testament to the environment of Asia-Pacific expertise and inquiry fostered in the College.

Our immense thanks go to Allison Ley, of the Department of Political and Social Change in the College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU, who shepherded this book through to completion, coordinating our efforts and copy-editing the entire manuscript. The book would not have been completed without her, and we are extremely grateful for her skill, calmness, and professionalism. Thuy Pham of the same department provided crucial research assistance and prepared the charts. Staff at the Cartography Unit in the College, particularly Karina Pelling, produced the striking maps contained in the volume. Greg Fry was particularly encouraging of our efforts to bring this book together, and we may not have done so without his encouragement. Two anonymous reviewers for Routledge provided very helpful comments. At Routledge, we are thankful for Dorothea Schaefer for her guidance and support.

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