

Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University since May 1975, Professor Low was previously Director of the University's Research School of Pacific Studies and founding Dean of the School of African and Asian Studies at the University of Sussex. He has published widely on the politics and history of Africa and South Asia, editing *Congress and the Raj*, reassessing the end of British rule in India, which was published in 1978.

The Leonard Huxley Lecture Theatre is located in the Computer Services Centre building, Mills Road, next to the John Curtin School of Medical Research. For further information about location of the lecture theatre and parking, call University Information, 49 2229.

The Australian National University
1980 University Lectures

Peasants and political power

Asia · Africa · the Pacific

Professor Anthony Low

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Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 June at 8.15pm
Leonard Huxley Lecture Theatre

Landed aristocracies, and kings and rulers associated with them, no longer hold sway in large parts of the world. But in the rural areas where most of the world's population still lives, significant social, political and economic differences within peasant societies nevertheless persist. Those 'at the top of the bottom' appear to exercise a great deal more power over their fellow rural inhabitants, and more influence over national political systems, in the still largely rural countries of the world, than is generally realised. Professor Low will illustrate this phenomenon from countries with which he has some familiarity in Asia, Africa and the South West Pacific, and discuss its importance for the late twentieth century world.

4 June

Toppled aristocracies and the Indian situation

When aristocratic landlords are largely deprived of their estates, the persistence of a differentiated peasantry has become of greater significance than it was before.

11 June

Stopping the rich peasant: the East African experience

Even where aristocratic landlords have not in the main existed, significant differences within peasant societies are also to be found, and recent attempts to reduce them appear to have been fruitless.

18 June

Right and Left regimes, and a question of equality

It therefore seems necessary to explore the nature of the nexus between locally dominant peasants and their national regimes, and consider again the hitherto widespread objective of equality in such situations.