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Edward Aspinall, Robin Jeffrey and Anthony J. Regan

Diminishing Conflicts in Asia and the Pacific

Why some subside and others don't

Edited by
Edward Aspinall, Robin Jeffrey and Anthony J. Regan

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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 the Asia and the Pacific at the ANU contains an extraordinary range and concentration of experts 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.

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