

## **M.Phil/Ph.D Course**

**Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, JNU**

Course Number: SA667N

Course Title: *Politics and Security of the Pacific Island Countries*

Teacher: Dr Shubhamitra Das

Credit: Three

Instruction Method: Lectures/Seminars

Evaluation Method: Sessional work including term papers, book reviews and mid semester exam of 40 marks and End Semester Exam for 60 marks

Course Duration: One Semester (Monsoon)

Contact Hours: Two hours per week

Time Table: Wednesday and Friday 11 AM to 12.30 PM

### **Course Aims and Objectives**

1. To know the impact of geopolitics on micro states security
2. Colonialism and the impact of neocolonialism in the Pacific- strategies adopted to control, extract, exploit and govern micro states
3. To explore the US-China rivalry in the Pacific region and the intricacies of Pacific diplomacy
4. To understand Pacific Island's Diplomacy of Blue Pacific and emphasis on Human Security and Pacific regionalism
5. To explore and study the role of metropolitan countries over the Pacific Islands and the issues of Right to Self Determination, Decolonization and Human Security

### **Learner's Outcome**

1. Learning the issues and challenges and the ability of successful diplomacy by micro states is an intellectual stimulation for better understanding of weak and so-called powerless states in a world of power and status is defined by the 'rich and influential,' 'big and powerful' countries.
2. The course can also provide better understanding of Colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism that also leads to aid dependency, corruption and being almost at the verge of bankruptcy and bad governance. These issues help to analyse, evaluate and examine, and discuss the socio-economic and political issues of the present world.

3. How Australia and New Zealand as regional middle powers could steer the regional political dynamics for better cooperation and provide security, minimize rivalry and work with other powers like the United States, France, China and UK.

### **Course Description and Rationale**

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) or Oceania have been one of the last to become independent from the colonial rule. After UN declared decolonisation in 1960s, most of these countries became independent while some countries chose to be freely associated with their former colonisers. PICs continuing relation with colonisers on the one hand and growing economic crisis and political instability on the other necessitates looking at the growing issues of security and regionalism which are going through a period of flux. Moreover, PICs relation with Australia and New Zealand is a dichotomous one- both as partner and as patron. The impact of other players in the region like Japan, South Korea, US, UK, France, China and India makes the region both fragile and dynamic at the same time thus furthering the region's prominence in the international platform. The role of the Pacific Islands in the present Indo-Pacific politics is fast evolving and making the remote countries become political and diplomatically sought by the regional as well as the extra-regional players.

The PICs are diverse and complex in both security and governance issues. South Pacific comprising of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia has become the focus in the recent past due to a) the increased strategic presence of bigger countries like US, China, Japan and recently India, b) the economic powers of ASEAN, its institutional strengths and its allies playing a crucial role for the South Pacific region, c) issues on human security since these countries are one of the first to be affected by climate change, waste management and also trans-border crime, d) internal conflict leading to instability in governance structures and a very limited resources and capacity for law enforcement and aid dependence on the one hand and the possibility of the region to be the latent hub for terrorist activities, drug-trafficking and piracy on the other, since the region has become the transit point for global trade routes. These multiple issues have created an urgency in deciphering the perspectives and equations that require a re-look and re-designing of the foreign policies of the countries, regional groupings and multilateral ties for security and economic cooperation.

### **Course Outline**

- a) **History and Geopolitical Significance of Pacific Region**
  - Colonisation and the process of mainstreaming the remote Pacific Island Countries

- The geopolitical understanding of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia
  - The reasons for geo-strategic and geo-economic issues gaining importance in the regional perspective
  - History and politics of Australia and New Zealand
  - Relations of Australia and New Zealand with SPICs as partner and/or patron
- b) **Political Institutions of Pacific Region**
- Politics of dependence and independence in the post-colonial era
  - Internal governance mechanisms and foreign intervention and involvement
  - Diplomacy of the Small or Micro States vis-à-vis great powers
  - Dependence on Economic aid and its impact on diplomacy
  - Trading partners of the Pacific Island countries; in the pre and post-Cold War era
- c) **Security Challenges of the Pacific Island Countries**
- Political dynamics in the region, the interplay of security and diplomacy by PICs, leaders in the region, cooperation, conflict and confrontation due to ethnic violence, political instability and foreign intervention
  - Non-Traditional Security (NTS) and global challenges like climate change and its direct and first impact in the South Pacific, migration, sustainable tourism, urbanisation, natural disasters and environmental issues
  - Human security and gender mainstreaming for nation building and regional cooperation
- d) **Regional Cooperation of the PICs**
- Regionalism in the Pacific- Emergence of the 'Pacific identity' in the region, enhancing the "Pacific Way"
  - Role of Pacific Island Forum (PIF) in the promotion of regional cooperation
  - Trade Agreements like Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) and Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)
  - Regional cooperation on climate change like SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme), SPICE (South Pacific Ocean Circulation and Climate Experiment)
  - Regional Identity and diplomacy on Environmentalism by the small states
- e) **Role of External Powers**
- US, France, UK
  - Japan, China, South Korea Indonesia and India

## Essential Reading

1. Baker, Richard.W, (1992) “International Relations in the South Pacific: New Visions and Voices”, Honolulu: East-West Centre
2. Brady, Annie-Marie (ed), (2010), “Looking North, Looking South: China, Taiwan and the South Pacific”, Singapore: World Scientific
3. Brij Lal, Kate Fortune (eds), (2000), “The Pacific Islands. An Encyclopedia”, Honolulu, (Encyclopedia)
4. Cheeseman, Graeme and Grant, Bruce (ed.) (1996), “*Discourse to Danger and Dread Frontier: Australia’s Defence and Security Thinking after the Cold War*”, pp 157, Allen& Unwin and RSPAS, the ANU, Canberra
5. Cumberland, Kenneth Brailey, (1956), “South west Pacific: A geography of Australia, New Zealand and their Pacific island neighbourhoods” London, Methuen Publishers
6. Denoon, D., Firth, S, Linnekin. J, Meleseia, M, Nero, K (eds), (1997) “A Cambridge History of the Pacific Islanders”. Cambridge. (Pacific Islanders)
7. Dommen, Edward and Phillippe Hein (1985), “States, Microstates and islands”, London, Dover N H: Croom Helm Publishers
8. Feeny, Simon (2009) “The Millenium Development Goals and Beyond: International Assistance to the Asia-Pacific”, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
9. Grastan, Hartlay.C (1963) “The South west Pacific to 1990: A modern History: Australia, New Zealand, the islands, Antarctica”, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press
10. Hastings, Kristen and Fogolwig, Karen (2012), *Climate Change and Human Mobility: Global Challenges to the Social System*”, Cambridge (England): New York, Cambridge University Press
11. Howe,K. R, Kiste, R, Lal, B (eds), (1994), “The Tides of History: The Pacific Islands in the Twentieth Century”, Honolulu 1994 (Tides)
12. Minahan, James (2012), “Ethnic Groups of South Asia and the Pacific: An Encyclopedia”, Santa Barbara Calif, ABC- CLIO
13. Osborne, Charles (ed) (1970), “Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific: A Handbook”, London Anthony Blond Publishers
14. Rees, Henry (1968) “Australasia: Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands” London, MacDonal & Evans Publications

15. Robinson, Kenneth. W. (1960 & 62), "Australia, New Zealand and Southwest Pacific" London, University of London Press
16. Rouben Azizian and Carleton Cramer(ed), 2015 "Regionalism, Security and Cooperation in Oceania" Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Honolulu
17. Sheila Harden (Ed), (1985: 20) "Small is Dangerous: Microstates in a Macro World" A Report of a Study Group of The David Davis Memorial Institute of International Studies, Frances Printer (Publishers) London
18. Suzanne Lowe Gallen, (2015) "Micronesian Sub-Regional Diplomacy," in Greg Fry, Sandra Tarte (ed) "The New Pacific Diplomacy, ANU Press, p 175-188
19. Wolfers, Edward (ed) (1976) "Australia's Northern Neighbours: Independent or Dependent?" West Melbourne, vic: Thomas Nelson Publishers, Australia

## Articles

1. Alan Dupont and William J Reckmeyer (Feb 2012) "Australian National Security Priorities: Addressing Strategic Risk in a Globalised World", *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol 66, No 1, 34-51
2. "Asia-Pacific Security", *Indonesian Quarterly*, Vol 36, no 3-4, *Special Issue* 2008
3. Beeson, Mark, & Jayasuriya, Kanishka (2009) "The politics of Asian Engagement: Ideas, Institutions and Academics" *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, Vol 55, No 3, 360-374
4. Benvenuti, Andrea and Jones, David Martin, (Fall 2011) "Myth and Misrepresentation in Australian Foreign Policy: Menzies and Engagement with Asia", *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Vol13, No 4, 57-78
5. Bruke, Anthony, (2010) "Questions of Community: Australian Identity and Asian Change", *Australian Journal of Political Science*, Vol 45, No 1, March, 75-93
6. Crawford James, "'Dreamers of the Day': Australia and the International Court of Justice", *Melbourne Journal of International Law*, Vol 14, 2013, 520-549
7. Croissant, Aurel (2013) "Coups and post-coup politics in South-East Asia and the Pacific: conceptual and comparative perspectives" *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol 67, No 3, P264-280
8. Castles, Stephen and Vasta Ellie (2004), "*Australia's Immigration Dilemma*" in Hollifield, James. F (ed), 2004, "Controlling Immigration" Second Edition, Stanford C.A, Stanford University Press, 1-24

9. *Congressional Research Service* (July 6, 2007), Report for Congress, "The Southwest Pacific: US interests and China's growing influence" 1-27
10. Docker, John (1992) "Dilemmas of Identity: The desire for the other in colonial and post-colonial cultural history" *Working paper in Australian Studies*, Working paper no 74, Sir Robert Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London
11. Droessler, Holger "Whose Pacific? US Security Interests in American Samoa from the age of Empire to the Pacific Pivot" *Pacific Asia Inquiry*, Vol 4 No 1 Fall 2013
12. Downer, Alexander, "Securing Australia's interest- Australia's Foreign Policy Priorities", *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol 59, No 1, 7-12, March 2005
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18. Ho, Elaine yee Lin and Shirley Geok Lin-Lim "The culture and Literature of Micro-states" *ARIEL A Review of International English Literature*, 32;1, Jan 2001
19. Japan - A Partner in Security? South Pacific States Oil, Terror, Political Spin", *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol 58, No 4, Dec 2004 (series)
20. Jayaraman, T.K "Efficacy of Fiscal and Monetary Policies in the South Pacific Island Countries: Some Empirical Evidence" *Indian Economic Journal*, Vol49, No1, July-Sept, 2001-2002, P63-72
21. Jayaraman, T.K "External Debt and Growth in Pacific Island countries", *Economics Internazionale*, Vol 61, No4, Nov 2008, P711-28
22. Jayaraman, T K, "Pacific Island Countries in a Globalised World: A Study of Macro Economic interdependence and Regional Integration", *ArthaVignana*, Vol52, No 4, Dec 2010, P283-305

23. Jha, Raghavendra, “Vulnerability and Natural Disaster in Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu and the Kyrgyz Republic” *Indian Economic Journal*, Vol 55, No2, July-Sept 2007, P 61-75
24. Macintyre, Martha, “Informed Consent and Mining Projects: A view from Papua New Guinea”, *Pacific Affairs*, Vol 80, No 1, Spring 2007
25. McDougall, Derek, “Australia and North-South Political Relations” *The Round Table*, Vol 100, No 415, 361-374, August 2011
26. McDougall, Derek, “Intervening” in neighbourhood: Comparing Australia’s Role in East Timor and the South west Pacific, *International Journal*, Vol 62, No4, Autumn 2007, P867-85
27. Newbury, Colin (1993), “Patron and Clients in the Pacific: The Long View”, *The Journal of Pacific History*, Vol 28, No2, 256-77.
28. Pierce, Charles, “Changing Coastline at Mele Beach, Vanuatu” *Geography*, Vol84, No 363, April 1999, P143-63
29. Ritchie, Jonathan “Pacific Solutions? The Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme as a Symbol of Australian Relations with the Pacific Islands” *Social Alternatives*, Vol28, No 4, 2009
30. Reilly, Ben, “Africanisation of the South Pacific” *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol 54, No 3, Nov 2000, P261-68
31. Rimmer, Peter J. (1993), “Japan's 'Bubble Economy' and the Pacific: The Case of the EIE Group” *Pacific Viewpoint*, Vol 34, No 1, 25-43
32. Scalapino, Robert A, “Asia-Pacific Security: The Current Balance of Power” *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol 58, No 3, Sept 2004, P368-76
33. Turnbull, Jane “Explaining Complexities of Environmental Management in Developing Countries: Lessons from Fiji” *Geographic Journal*, Vol 170, No1, Mar 2004, P64-77
34. Ward, B D, “Single Currency for Pacific Island Countries: An SVAR Analysis, *International Economic*, Vol 59, No 1, Feb 2006, P 83-112

### ***Additional Reading***

#### ***Books***

1. Buszynski, Leszek (2004), “Asia-Pacific Security: Values and Identity” London; Routledge Curzon Publishers

2. Cox, Michel. Ikenberry, John G and Takashi Inoguchi (ed) (2000) “American Democracy Promotion: Impulses, Strategies and Impacts”, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press
3. Das, Shubhamitra, (2005), “Australia’s Defence Policy and South-east Asia”, National Book Organisation, New Delhi
4. Grynberg, Roman (2006) “WTO at the Margins: Small States and the Multilateral Trading System”, Cambridge University Press
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## Articles

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4. Batra, Bikram Jeet, “Wicked Wizard of Oz: Australia, Moti and Solomon Islands”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 42, No 31, 4-10 August, 2007, P 3207-08
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10. Gani, Azmat, "Services and Economic Growth in Pacific Island Countries", *International Journal of Development Issues*, Vol 9, No2, 2010, P 113-30
11. Hilderbrand, Sophie Foster, "Current Developments in the Pacific: Veiqati, Vaka Viti and the Fiji Islands' Elections in 1999" *Journal of Pacific History*, Vol 35, No 3, Dec 2000, P253-68
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18. Lozens, Peter "Oceania and Security: A Perspective from New Zealand", *India Quarterly*, Vol 64, No1, Jan-Mar 2008, P154-70
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**UN Documents and Working Papers, Papers presented in Seminars, Web Sites**

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