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Articulated Cultures: Militarism and Masculinities in Fiji during the Mid 1990s

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Abstract: This article highlights some of the areas that would benefit from a closer analysis of the cultures of militarism. It examines how militarism extends beyond the

confines of military institutions, and traces how military values and ideals influence and reflect social, political and cultural divisions in Fiji. The concept of articulation informs the discussion of militarism and its cultures in contemporary Fiji. More specifically, the paper examines the cultural dynamics of militarism in Fiji in a period after the military coups of 1987 and before the putsch of 2000, paying particular attention to representations of the military and militarizing processes collected from news media reporting between 1995 and 1996. Prior to pacification, Fijian men kept their weapons near them at all times (Williams, 1982). These habits of preparedness, as well as ideas about acceptable forms of aggression, gender roles, the content of exchange relationships between the living and their ancestors and ancestral gods (for instance, human sacrifice and cannibalistic communion), and the configuration of the social landscape (for instance, the composition and placement of villages), were all transformed by the elimination of warfare (Turner, 1997: 370-1).



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