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Government of Peace

Social Governance, Security and the **Problematic of Peace**

Edited by Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group, India

'This collection of essays draws on while extending Foucault's concept of governmentality to make sense of the "governance of peace" in postcolonial contexts. "Peace", as the book argues and demonstrates, is always a product of governmental strategies aimed at preventing dissent, disorder, and the rise of the unruly. As such it should be required reading for anyone working through the contemporary problematics of peace in a world still dominated by naïve understandings of peace as the absence of war.'

Julian Reid, University of Lapland, Finland



Government of Peace addresses a major question in world politics today: how does post-colonial democracy produce a form of governance that copes with conflicts, insurgencies, revolts, and acute dissents? The contributors view social governance as a crucial component in answering this question and their narratives of governance aim to show how certain appropriate governing modes make social conflicts more manageable or at least also occasions for development. The idea of a government of peace sits at the core of the interlinked issues of social governance, peace-building, and security. By exploring this idea and analysing the Indian experience of insurgencies and internal conflicts the contributors collectively show how rules of social governance can and have evolved.

Contents: Introduction. Part I The Problematic of Security: Government of peace, Ranabir Samaddar; Disciplining villages and restoring peace in the countryside, Sajal Nag; Tripura: counterinsurgency and governance, Subir Bhaumik; Ethnic subject or the subject of security?, Samir Kumar Das. Part II The Problematic of Society: Women, conflict, and governance in Nagaland, Paula Banerjee; Governing caste and managing conflicts: Bihar, 1990–2011, Manish K. Jha and Pushpendra; Governing flood, migration, and conflict in North Bihar, Mithilesh Kumar. Index.

April 2015 Hardback

252 pages 978-1-4724-3491-3

£65.00/\$119.95

View online at: www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472434913 and use code 50BQB14N

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