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Review essays by Carl Vadivella Belle, Charles Hirschman and Edmund Terence Gomez, with a response from Andrew C. Willford

Keywords: Malaysia, Tamils, land tenure, relocation, plantation workers, bumiputraism, government policy, communal relations, ethnography, ethno-nationalism, critical theory, ethnography.

Review Essay I: Carl Vadivella Belle

With the publication of Tamils and the Haunting of Justice, Andrew Willford has emerged as one of the foremost and most innovative scholars working in the field of Indian and, more specifically, Tamil Malaysian studies. Written with the collaboration of Dr S. Nagarajan, this work has as its primary objective the examination of Tamil perceptions of their plight as an aggrieved minority in contemporary Malaysia and, in particular, of their response to the pressures exerted by an increasingly aggressive Malay-Islamist nationalism. In detailing these impressions, Willford seeks to explore the production of race and ethnicity within the context of a “political, material and legal discursive field” (p. 6); to determine notions of justice as articulated by an aggrieved community and specify how such notions both nurture and mould definitions of race and ethnicity in post-colonial states; and, more generally, to probe the processes of psychological