

Table of Contents

	Page No.
List of Tables	vii
Foreword by Parmatma. Saran	ix
Foreword by Michael E. Brown	xiii
Preface	xvii
Acknowledgment	xxi
Chapter I – Introduction	1
Historical Context	1
Resources, Theories, Methodologies	1
Chapter II – Madurai and the Madurai Region	21
Society, Agriculture, Ancient Rule, and Culture	25
The People, Their Occupations	32
Chapter III – Vagaikulam: A Brief Social History	45
Social and Historical Background	47
Caste Composition	71
The Untouchable Caste	79
Chapter IV – Capitalism in Caste Agriculture	85
Agriculture and the Land Tenure System	94
Three Kinds of Farming – Dry land, Wet land, Well	95
Landholding Size, Concentration, Fragmentation	101
Non-Farming Occupations	108
Chapter V – Workings of Caste-Class Dynamics	121
Tradition and Modernity	123
Unequal Opportunities in Social Life	127
Marriage and Family Relations	133
Business and Political Activities	136

	Page No.
Chapter VI – Politics of Caste-Class Dynamics	159
Caste, Class, Land Ownership	159
Beneficiaries of Modernization	160
Collapse of Retail Businesses	163
Force and Violence	175
Political Mobilization	175
Chapter VII – Conclusion	179
Fluctuating Dynamics of Caste and Class Forces	179
Appendices	191
Bibliography	199
Index	207



List of Tables

Table No. Name of Table	Page No.
1. Commercialization of Croppings, 1950 and 1990	86
2. Population and Landownership: PK and Non-PK	89
3. Caste and Ownership of Land in 1950 and 1990	90
4. Population of Vagaikulam in 1950 and 1990	91
5. Autonomous Sources of Income to Vagaikulam	92
6. The Top 25 Landlords in 1950	99
7. The Top 25 Landlords in 1990	99
8. Fragmentation Process: Then and Now	101
9. Land Holders by Family in 1950 and 1990	103
10. Peasants in Four Tiered System	104
11. Shops in 1950 and 1990 by Caste	116
12. Restaurants in 1950 and 1990 by Caste	116
13. Incomes from External Employment, Services	118
14. Traditional Bullock Cart Transportation	123
15. Traditional Ploughs; 1950 and 1990	124
16. Payment of Wages in Kind and Cash	125
17. Houses: Bricks, Tiled, Mud-Walled, Huts	128
18. Divorce Rate: 1950-70, 1971-80, and 1981-89	136
19. Landowning Lineages, Combined Ownership	145
20. Moneylenders by Caste in 1989	161
21. Teastalls, Restaurants by Caste	164
22. Ownership of Consumer Stores by Caste	164

