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PREFACE

This book outlines the main trends in the past, present and possible futures of the diverse and stimulating societies of the world's most scattered region. The main focus is on the Pacific Islands today, but much of what happens today is conditioned in varying degrees by what happened yesterday, both within the Pacific and beyond. Much of what happens tomorrow will be influenced by forces which are already in operation. The final section includes basic facts about each Pacific Islands nation or territory; a select list of Pacific Islands organizations and services; notes on journals and films relevant to Pacific studies; a bibliography and index. The chapters aim to be self-contained, so that readers interested in particular topics can go straight to them.

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