

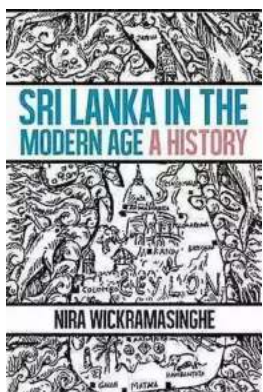
The Captivating Journey of Sri Lanka In The Modern Age

Sri Lanka, a land of rich history and ancient culture, has witnessed an incredible transformation in the modern era. From colonial rule to independence, this country has experienced triumphs and challenges that have shaped its present fabric. Join us on a fascinating journey through time as we explore Sri Lanka in the modern age.

The Colonial Legacy

The modern history of Sri Lanka begins with the arrival of European powers in the 16th century. The Portuguese, Dutch, and British all left an indelible mark on the island, introducing new agricultural techniques, infrastructure, and governance systems. However, this period also saw the subjugation of the local population and the erosion of traditional cultures.

The Portuguese were the first to establish a presence in Sri Lanka in the early 16th century. They introduced Christianity and initiated trade with the island's resources, including spices, gems, and textiles. However, their rule was marred by conflicts with the local kingdoms and resistance from the Sinhalese people.



Sri Lanka in the Modern Age: A History

by Nira Wickramasinghe(1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3608 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 473 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The Dutch followed the Portuguese, founding colonies in strategic coastal areas. They brought remarkable advancements in agriculture, especially in the cultivation of cinnamon, which became a lucrative export. The Dutch East India Company played a significant role in shaping the island's economic landscape during this era.

By the late 18th century, the British Empire gained control of Sri Lanka, then known as Ceylon. Under British rule, the island experienced accelerated development in infrastructure, education, and legal systems. Coffee, tea, and rubber plantations thrived, transforming the economy and establishing Sri Lanka as a prominent exporter of these commodities.

The Struggle for Independence

The 20th century marked a turning point in Sri Lanka's history, as desires for self-rule and independence grew stronger. Inspired by the nationalist movements sweeping the globe, Sri Lankans began demanding freedom from colonial rule.

Una Thanayamei, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent resistance, emerged as the leading advocate for independence. Through peaceful protests and civil disobedience, Sri Lankans challenged British authority and called for self-governance.

Following World War II, Sri Lanka saw a surge in nationalist sentiment. Leading figures like D. S. Senanayake and Don Stephen Senanayake spearheaded the movement, negotiating with the British and advocating for an independent

Ceylon. Their efforts led to self-government in 1947 and full independence in 1948.

Modern Challenges and Progress

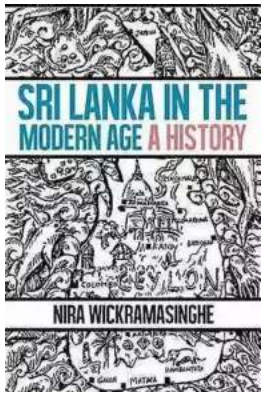
While independence was a significant milestone for Sri Lanka, the country faced various challenges in the years that followed. Ethnic tensions between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils erupted, leading to a decades-long civil war that resulted in significant loss of life and economic setbacks.

However, in recent years, Sri Lanka has made great strides towards reconciliation and economic development. The end of the civil war in 2009 brought hope for a peaceful and prosperous future. The government invested heavily in infrastructure projects, attracting foreign investments and boosting tourism.

Today, Sri Lanka stands as an emerging economy with a rapidly growing tourism industry. The country's diverse attractions, including stunning beaches, ancient temples, and lush tea plantations, draw visitors from around the world. Its cultural heritage, friendly people, and delectable cuisine make it a must-visit destination for those seeking an immersive experience.

Sri Lanka's journey in the modern age is a testament to the resilience and spirit of its people. From the legacy of colonial rule to the struggle for independence and the challenges faced in the aftermath, the island has emerged as a symbol of progress and hope.

As Sri Lanka continues to embrace the opportunities of the 21st century, it is important to remember the lessons of the past. The history of this nation serves as a reminder of the importance of unity, understanding, and respect for diverse cultures in building a brighter future.



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Sri Lanka in the Modern Age recounts the modern history of the island in an accessible yet unconventional manner. Where other histories have tended to focus on the state's failure to accommodate the needs and demands of minority communities, Wickramasinghe places their claims alongside the political, social and economic demands of other communities, parties, associations and groups, tracing their lineages to the colonial period. This updated second edition carries the book into the present, covering the brutal end of Sri Lanka's civil war and the making of oppressive stability that has grown in its wake.

Drawing on recent work as well as on her own research in the field, Wickramasinghe has written above all a history of the people of Sri Lanka rather than a history of the nation-state.



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