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Julia Eckert , Brian Donahoe , Christian Strümpell , Zerrin Özlem Biner
Frontmatter
More Information

LAW AGAINST THE STATE

This collection of rich, empirically grounded case studies investigates the conditions and consequences of 'juridification' – the use of law by ordinary individuals as a form of protest against 'the state'. Starting from the actual practices of claimants, these case studies address the translation and interpretation of legal norms into local concepts, actions and practices in a way that highlights the social and cultural dynamism and multivocality of communities in their interaction with the law and legal norms. The contributors to this volume challenge the image of homogeneous and primordially norm-bound cultures that has been (unintentionally) perpetuated by some of the more prevalent treatments of law and culture. This volume highlights the heterogeneous geography of law and the ways boundaries between different legal bodies are transcended in struggles for rights. Contributions include case studies from South Africa, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Turkey, India, Papua New Guinea, Suriname, the Marshall Islands and Russia.

JULIA ECKERT is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Bern and head of the research group 'Law against the State' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany. Her research interests are in legal anthropology, the anthropology of the modern state, social movements, the anthropology of crime and punishment, and changing notions of responsibility and justice.

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More Information

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Frontmatter
More Information

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Frontmatter
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Frontmatter
More Information

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Frontmatter
More Information

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Julia Eckert , Brian Donahoe , Christian Strümpell , Zerrin Özlem Biner
Frontmatter
More Information

CONTENTS

Notes on contributors *page* ix
Acknowledgements xiv

Introduction: law's travels and transformations 1
Julia Eckert, Zerrin Özlem Biner, Brian Donahoe and Christian Strümpell

1 **Juridification of indigenous politics** 23
Stuart Kirsch

2 **Naming, claiming, proving? The burden of proof issue for Russia's indigenous peoples** 44
Brian Donahoe

3 **Human rights and village headmen in Malawi: translation beyond vernacularisation** 70
Harri Englund

4 **Juridification, transitional justice and reaching out to the public in Sierra Leone** 94
Gerhard Anders

5 **The juridification of political protest and the politicisation of legalism in South African land restitution** 118
Olaf Zenker

6 **Rumours of rights** 147
Julia Eckert

7 **Public interest and private compromises: the politics of environmental negotiation in Delhi, India** 171
Amita Baviskar

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
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Julia Eckert , Brian Donahoe , Christian Strümpell , Zerrin Özlem Biner
Frontmatter
More Information

CONTENTS

8 **Law against displacement: the juridification of tribal protest in Rourkela, Orissa** 202
Christian Strümpell

9 **Documenting 'truth' in the margins of the Turkish state** 228
Zerrin Özlem Biner

10 **The ones who walk away: law, sacrifice and conscientious objection in Turkey** 245
Erdem Evren

Epilogue: changing paradigms of human rights 266
Upendra Baxi

Index 286

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Julia Eckert , Brian Donahoe , Christian Strümpell , Zerrin Özlem Biner
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More Information

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Frontmatter
More Information

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Frontmatter
More Information

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Frontmatter
More Information

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Frontmatter
More Information

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Frontmatter
More Information

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