The Military and Politics in Fiji

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Fiji military: Regulars size

Number of coups in the world (1900s to present)

- 1900s
- 1910s
- 1920s
- 1930s
- 1940s
- 1950s
- 1960s
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s
- 2000s

Fiji - 3 coups since 2000
1987 sustain Fijian establishment
2000 sustain Fijian establishment
2006 undermine and restructure Fijian establishment
Stages of coups in Fiji

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<td><strong>Takeover</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Consolidation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Transformation</strong></td>
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Military culture–indigenous Fijian culture interface

- Kinship
  - Communal security vs national security
  - Part of community–not independent of community
- Warrior macho culture
  - Vanua loyalty–military loyalty
Military– civil state relations

1. Sifting line of demarcation
2. Role of military based on hard security
3. Development of interventionist mentality
4. Personalization of loyalty
Continuum of “democracy” and “stability” in selected Pacific states

- Solomon Islands
  - PNG
  - Cook Is
  - Vanuatu
  - Tuvalu
  - Kiribati

- Fiji
  - Tonga

“Open” Democracy

Political Stability

“Conditional” Democracy

Political Instability
2006/2009 coups dilemmas

- Total military control
- Extensive military infiltration

- Coercion – physical and psychological force
- Hegemony – control/domination through media, church, police

- Total reconfiguration of state system/constitution: New order of legitimacy and escape from prosecution

- Forceful transformation of culture: Resistance
- Antagonistic international/regional geo-politics

- Play the “delay” game
- Overambitious sentiments vs technical capacity
Future

Reform military
  - Role, structure
  - Move away from hard security role

Reassess legal and political mechanisms to control military

Greater professionalization
Thank you for listening