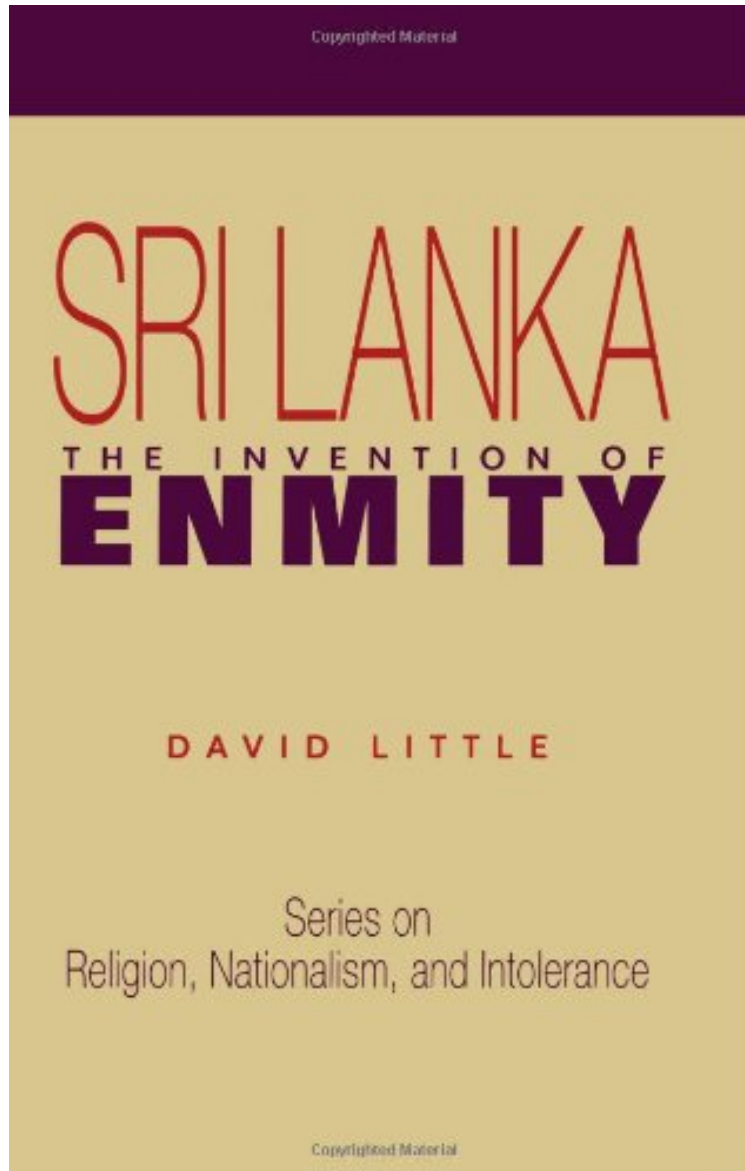


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Sri Lanka: The Invention of Enmity (Series on Religion, Nationalism, and Intolerance)

David Little

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Enmity (Series on Religion, Nationalism, and Intolerance):

For over two millennia, the Buddhists and Hindus of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) lived together in relative peace. But in the twentieth century, this small island republic off the coast of India has been wracked by recurrent violence and ethnic tension. Especially since independence in 1948, the majority Sinhalese population, predominantly Buddhist, and the Tamil minority, mainly Hindu and some Muslims, have competed fiercely over questions of race, language, religion, and political control. Several revisions of the constitution have failed to resolve these issues, and the post-independence period has witnessed horrific riots, guerrilla movements on both sides, and pro-government death squads, as well as a peace-keeping effort by Indian forces to try to protect the Tamil minority and to resolve the dispute. What role does religion in fact play in the conflict, and what can be done to reduce the level of tension and violence in Sri Lanka? This volume addresses those questions by examining the sources of this intense conflict; the political, legal, and nongovernmental efforts at reconciliation; and the prospects for a settlement.

An important contribution to the understanding not only of the Sri Lankan dilemma, but also to the role of religious beliefs in the development of intolerance. (Bulletin of the Henry Martyn Institute of Islamic Studies) About the Author David Little is senior scholar in the Institute's Religion, Ethics, and Human Rights Initiative. An expert in the fields of human rights and religion in international affairs, he established the Institute's working group on religion, ideology, and peace, which has been engaged in a multiyear study of religion, nationalism, and intolerance, with special reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Intolerance and Discrimination. His books, *Ukraine: The Legacy of Intolerance* and *Sri Lanka: The Invention of Enmity*, are based on the findings of the working group. He has also written or co-authored numerous other publications, including *Human Rights and the Conflict of Values: Western and Islamic Perspectives of Religious Liberty*. Formerly professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia, Little has taught at Harvard and Yale Divinity Schools and at other academic institutions. He received his Th.D. from Harvard University.