Contents

Contributors	ix
Acknowledgements	хi
Abbreviations	xii
1. Introduction: the power of the past Jonathan Spencer	1
Part I: Colonialism, history and racism	
2. The generation of communal identities Elizabeth Nissan and R.L. Stirrat	19
3. The people of the lion: the Sinhala identity and ideology in history and historiography R.A.L.H. Gunawardana	45
4. Historical images in the British period John D. Rogers	87
5. The politics of the Tamil past Dagmar Hellmann-Rajanayagam	107
Part II: History at a moment of crisis	
6. Nationalist rhetoric and local practice: the fate of the village community in Kukulewa, James Brow	125
7. A compound of many histories: the many pasts of an east coast Tamil community Mark P. Whitaker	145
8. Rural awakenings: grassroots development and the cultivation of a national past in rural Sri Lanka Michael D. Woost	164

Contents

Part III: The politics of the past

9. J.R. Jayewardene: righteousness and realpolitik Steven Kemper	187
10. Newspaper nationalism: Sinhala identity as historical discourse Serena Tennekoon	205
11. Afterword: scared places, violent spaces E. Valentine Daniel	227
Index	247