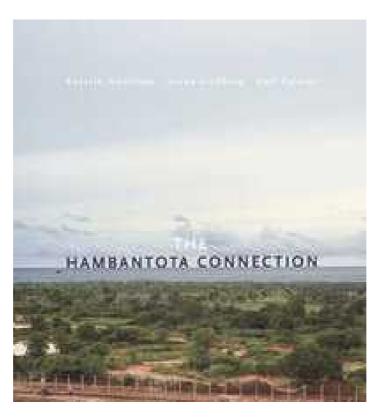
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The Hambantota Connection : Constructing Landscapes, Contesting Modernity PDF E-BOK Karl Palmås



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BESKRIVNING

As China re-emerges as a superpower and Western hegemony wanes, the Indian Ocean has become a geopolitical nexus. In the centre of this new map lies Hambantota, a fishing village on the south coast of Sri Lanka. Here, Chinese capital and labour has been ploughed into the construction of an international airport, a cricketstadium, and what is expected to become the largest port in South Asia. Hamban tota seems to fit perfectly into what American and Indian militarystrategists refer to as the »String of Pearls«: a plot of vital infra structuredevelopments, scattered along the rim of the Indian Ocean. The West no longer represents the only model of development, and there are now alternative versions of modernity that compete with each other. Hambantota can be understood as a microcosm that contains this contested modernity. Drawing upon documentary photography, development geography and economic anthropology, the authors trace connectionsbetweenlocal phenomena and global patterns. The HambantotaConnection presents a visual sociology of logistics and livelihoods, ofauthoritarian leadership and anthropocenic landscapes, and ofeconomic fictions and planetary fluxes. It explores what a place can say about the world, and how the world can be grasped through abstraction and speculation. Kerstin Hamilton holds a BA in photo graphy from Dublin Institute of Technology, and an MFA from the School of Photography at the University of Gothenburg. Jonas Lindberg has been following the developments in Hambantota since conducting his doctoral re-search in development geography. He is currently Associate Professor at the University of Gothenburg. Karl Palmås completed his PhD in sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and is currently Associate Professor at Chalmers University of Technology.

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