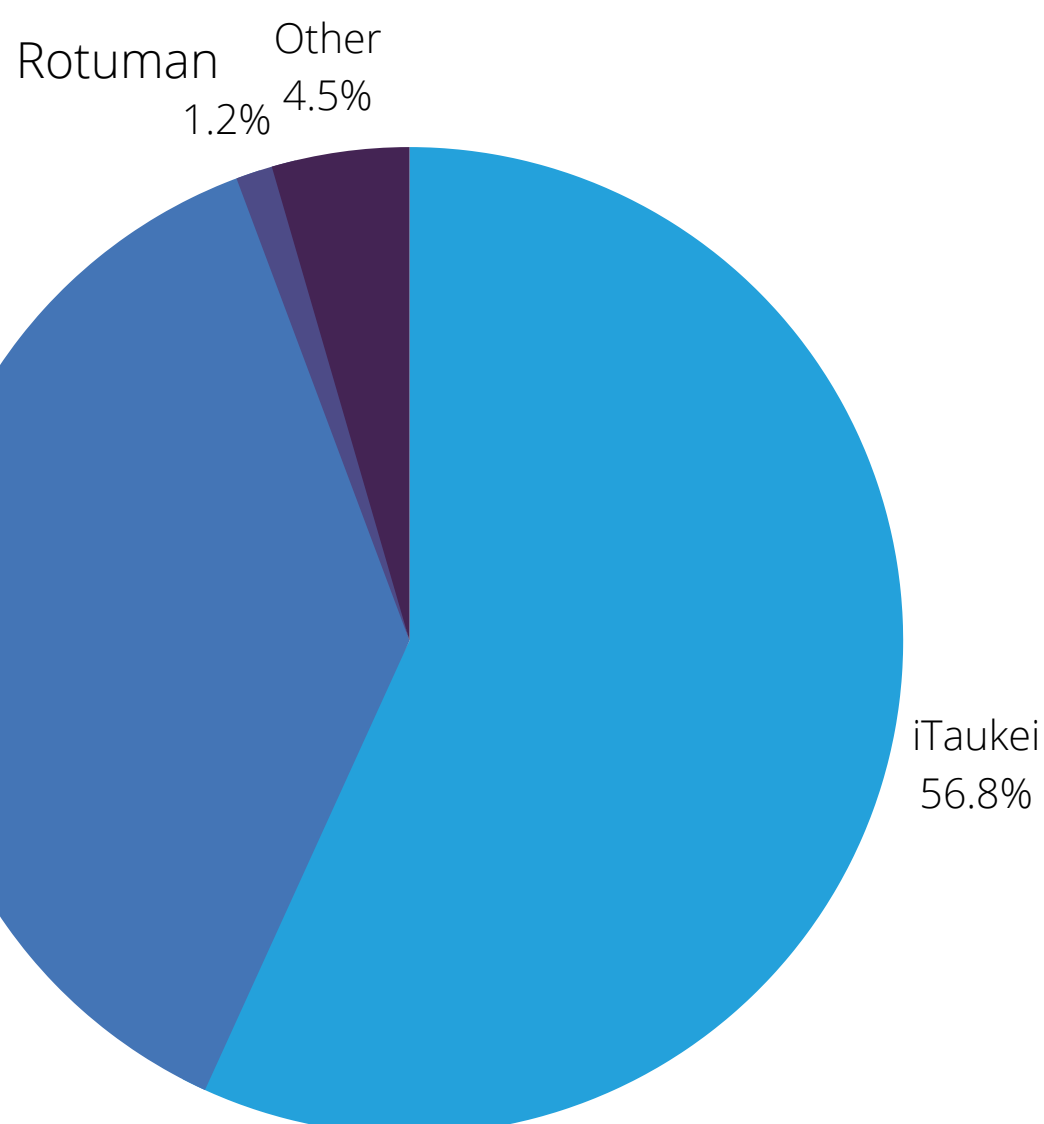
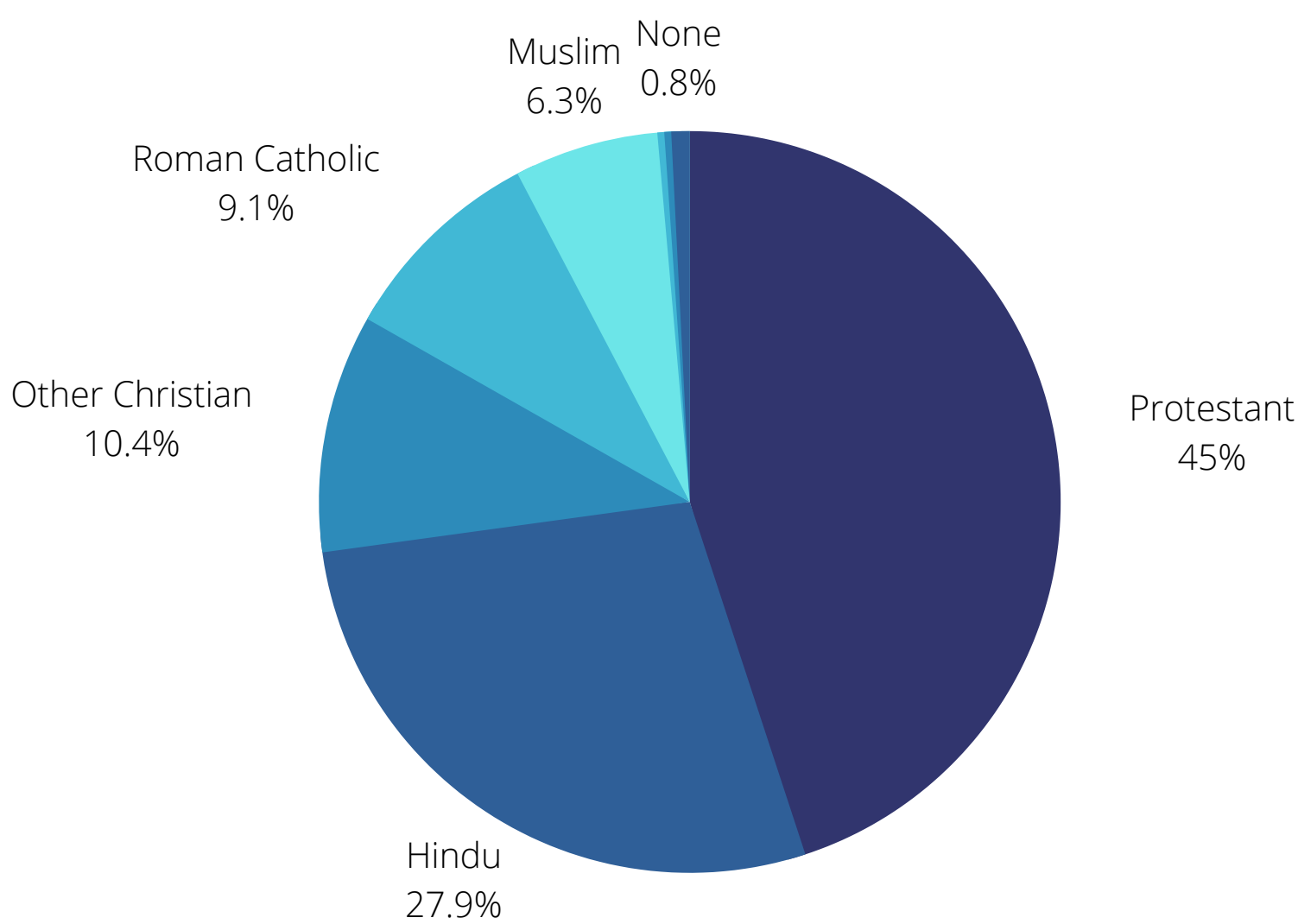


HISTORICAL CONTEXT

A Pacific Islander nation which, while having a large indigenous population, is also a multicultural society, with various groups residing in it. The Republic of Fiji, more commonly referred to as just Fiji, gained independence from Britain in 1970 and established a parliamentary republic in 1987.

DEMOGRAPHICS



MULTICULTURALISM POLICY

Due to the cultural makeup of Fiji, there have been several laws passed by the Fijian government to support the country's multicultural mosaic. It is even part of the Fijian Constitution.

DOMESTIC PRACTICAL

- Valuing and active promotion of diversity.
- Multiculturalism as a means to integration.
- Affirmative action policies.

INTERNATIONAL

Treaties

- ✓ International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- ✓ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Promotion on International Scale
Yes

Fiji

Background

- **Population:** 939,535 in July 2021ⁱ
- **Demographics:** iTaukei (Indigenous Fijian) 56.8%, Indo-Fijian 37.5%, Rotuman 1.2%, other 4.5%ⁱⁱ
- **Languages:** iTaukei, English, Fiji Hindi (all official)ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Religion:** Protestant 45% (Methodist 34.6%, Assembly of God 5.7%, Seventh Day Adventist 3.9%, and Anglican 0.8%), Hindu 27.9%, other Christian 10.4%, Roman Catholic 9.1%, Muslim 6.3%, Sikh 0.3%, other 0.3%, none 0.8%^{iv}
- **Terms:** *Multiculturalism* (not mentioned in the constitution)
- **Approach:** Top-down (led by relevant government ministries)

The reason as to why Fiji was included in this project was that Fiji is an example of a Pacific Islander nation which, while having a large Indigenous population, is also a multicultural society, with various groups residing in it. Following a turbulent history, the Republic of Fiji, more commonly referred to as just Fiji, gained independence from Britain in 1970 and established a parliamentary republic in 1987^v.

Despite its isolated location in the Pacific Ocean, Fiji has a relatively multicultural society, comprising of various groups including the Indigenous Fijians, called iTaukei since the 2010 constitutional change^{vi}, Indo-Fijians, Rotumans (another Indigenous group), English, Chinese, and more. Most of the immigrants in this island nation are Indians, a by-product of their time as a British colony. Due to the cultural makeup of Fiji, there have been several laws passed by the Fijian government to support the country's multicultural mosaic and it is even part of the Fijian Constitution.

Comparative Analysis: Domestic Legal

Approach

Government-led; not civil society.

- 1946 Census Act allows for the classification of various cultural minorities^{vii}
- 2009 Citizenship of Fiji Act^{viii}
- 2009 Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission Act encourages the concept of human rights, and it prohibits discrimination based off various factors, one of which is culture/ethnicity^{ix}

Various laws surrounding the protection of rights of the iTaukei and Rotuma people.

'Home-Zoning,' which refers to a policy of sending children to the nearest school, will probably promote the idea of multi-ethnic schools.^x

Introduction of proportional representation system and removal of reserved seats based off ethnicity.^{xi}

Constitutional Protections

The preamble recognizes the culture of the Indigenous people of Fiji (iTaukei) and Rotuman.

The preamble also addresses the multi-culture society of Fiji, with it recognizing—"RECOGNISING the Indigenous people or the iTaukei, their ownership of iTaukei lands, their unique culture, customs, traditions and language; RECOGNISING the Indigenous people or the Rotuman from the island of Rotuma, their ownership of Rotuman lands, their unique culture, customs, traditions and language;

RECOGNISING the descendants of the indentured labourers from British India and the Pacific Islands, their culture, customs, traditions and language; and RECOGNISING the descendants of the settlers and immigrants to Fiji, their culture, customs, traditions and language,”

- Chapter 1 (A) promotes “common and equal citizenry...” amongst the citizens of Fiji
- Chapter 1(4) of the Fijian Constitution gives religious freedom to Fiji’s citizens
- Chapter 1 (5) gives all citizens equal status and identity
- Chapter 2 of the Constitution contains a Bill of Rights which is applicable to all citizens, regardless of their ethnicity/culture, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, right to equality, freedom of religion, conscience, and belief, among others.

Explicit Recognition of Multiculturalism

Not in the Constitution.

Comparative Analysis: Domestic Practical

Valuing and Active Promotion of Diversity

There has been a recognition of the Great Council of Chiefs which, while promoting iTaukei culture, also promotes a multicultural Fiji.^{xii}

Coup d’etats have been led to promote equal rights for all civilians.^{xiii}

Multiculturalism as a Means to Integration

Fiji celebrates World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development on May 12, although there is no cultural recognition.^{xiv}

Affirmative Action Policies

Some policies were in place to help disadvantaged groups, but its effectiveness is disputed.^{xv}

Comparative Analysis: International

International Treaties

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1973)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2018)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (2018)
- International Convention on the Protection at the Rights of All Migrant Workers and of Their Families (2019)

International Promotion of Multiculturalism

Not explicitly.

ⁱ “Fiji,” The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed September 20, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji/#people-and-society>

ⁱⁱ “Fiji,” The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed September 20, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji/#people-and-society>

ⁱⁱⁱ “Fiji,” The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed September 20, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji/#people-and-society>

^{iv} “Fiji,” The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed September 20, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji/#people-and-society>

v "Fiji," The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed September 18, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji/#introduction>

vi "Fiji," The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed September 19, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji/#people-and-society>

vii Government of Fiji. "The Laws of Fiji," <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/952>

viii Government of Fiji. "The Laws of Fiji," <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/3173>

ix Government of Fiji. "The Laws of Fiji," <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/2291>

x Naidu, Vijay. "Fiji: The Challenges and Opportunities of Diversity." (2013), pg. 16.

<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/525fbfda4.pdf>

xi Naidu, Vijay. "Fiji: The Challenges and Opportunities of Diversity." (2013), pg. 2-24.

<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/525fbfda4.pdf>

xii Naidu, Vijay. "Fiji: The Challenges and Opportunities of Diversity." (2013), pg. 17.

<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/525fbfda4.pdf>

xiii Naidu, Vijay. "Fiji: The Challenges and Opportunities of Diversity." (2013), pg. 7.

<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/525fbfda4.pdf>

xiv The Fiji Times. "Cultural Diversity," May 25th, 2017. <https://www.fijitimes.com.fj/cultural-diversity-2/>

xv Ratuva, Steven. "Positive Discrimination: The Case of Fiji" In *World Policy* (2016).

<http://worldpolicy.org/2016/04/19/positive-discrimination-the-case-of-fiji/>