

村長・地区長・人民代表選挙での庶民の関心：  
トンガ王国エウア島の事例から  
**Democracy: How Commoners Voted in 'Eua Island,  
the Kingdom of Tonga**

森本利恵  
**MORIMOTO Rie**

総合研究大学院大学 文化科学研究科  
〒565-8511 大阪府吹田市千里万博公園10番1号 国立民族博物館内  
*School of Cultural Studies, Graduate University for Advanced Studies, National  
Museum of Ethnology, 10-1 Senri Expo. Park, Suita, Osaka 565-8511 Japan*

**Abstract**

This paper aims to examine the form of democracy practiced in Tongan society as evidenced by the way commoners voted in the 2001 elections in 'Eua Island, the Kingdom of Tonga. The elections reveal what Tongan commoners think about democracy and what they seek for in elections. Three elections are described and examined in this study; namely, one for the Town Officer, one for the District Officer, and one for the People's Representative, who is a member of the Tongan parliament. Each election is held once every three years.

The following are the results. Firstly, the result of the election for the People's Representative in 'Eua Island had religious significance. It was not truly democratic. The People's Representative chosen by the commoners represents the commoners' opinion of the king's government. The candidates were all members of the Free Church (the former king's church, but presently the church of those who are against the king). There was no candidate who belonged to the Free Wesleyan Church, the church of the present king. The Tongan democratic movement promotes only those leaders whose aim is to change the political system from a kingdom to a democratic society.

Secondly, the elections for the Town and District Officers represent the personal relationships between voters and the candidates. It favors those candidates who are related by kinship (based on the traditional extended family) and by religious party affiliation in the village community. It is clear that Tongan commoners do not vote according to their own free choice. It concludes that in 'Eua Island, the kind of democracy that exists has been adapted by the commoners. It is not a western democracy whose purpose is to reflect the people's right to choose their leaders freely.

**Key words:** commoner, election, democracy, Tonga

**はじめに**

トンガはポリネシアにあって現在も王政を保持する唯一の王国である。1875年の憲法制定以降今日に至るまで、王自ら政治を行う王政とウェズリアン系キリスト教の宗教が政教一致する。そうしたトンガの国会は、王、各省大臣、知事、国会議員（貴族議員と人民代表議員）で構成される。貴族議員は貴族から、人民代表議員は庶民<sup>1)</sup>から選出される。

