Kanak Identity Claim in New Caledonia

The Kanak identity claim is the key concept of the decolonisation struggle of New Caledonia. French colonization dehumanised the Kanak and deprived them of their rights and dignity so that they had to politically and culturally assert Kanak identity vis-à-vis France and others. While struggling for the recovery of their rights, which are conceived within the modern norm of the nation-state, they tried to restore their identity as a symbol representing the autochthonous people as a whole or as a symbol of a nation. Focusing on Kanak notions of sovereignty, we see how they have domesticated the modern concept of the nation-state in their claim to Kanak identity by analysing the discourses of the people.