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Kishore Mahbubani & Jeffery Sng

The ASEAN Miracle: A Catalyst for Peace

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a miracle. Why?

In an era of growing cultural pessimism, many thoughtful individuals believe that different civilisations—especially Islam and the West—cannot live together in peace. The ten countries of ASEAN provide a thriving counter-example of civilizational co-existence. Here 625m people live together in peace. This miracle was delivered by ASEAN.

In an era of growing economic pessimism, where many young people believe that their lives will get worse in coming decades, Southeast Asia bubbles with optimism. In an era where many thinkers predict rising geopolitical competition and tension, ASEAN regularly brings together all the world's great powers.

Stories of peace are told less frequently than stories of conflict and war. ASEAN's imperfections make better headlines than its achievements. But in the hands of thinker and writer Kishore Mahbubani, the good news story is also a provocation and a challenge to the rest of the world.

Kishore Mahbubani is Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and author of *The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East*.

Jeffery Sng is a writer and former diplomat based in Bangkok, co-author of *A History of the Thai-Chinese*.



“A powerful and passionate account of how, against all odds, ASEAN transformed the region and why Asia and the world need it even more today.”

– Amitav Acharya



RIDGE BOOKS

March 2017

Casebound • US\$20 / S\$24

ISBN: 978-981-4722-49-0

280pp / 229 x 152mm

Chua Beng Huat

Liberalism Disavowed: Communitarianism and State Capitalism in Singapore

In *Liberalism Disavowed*, Chua Beng Huat examines the rejection of Western-style liberalism in Singapore and the way the People's Action Party has forged an independent non-Western ideology.

This book explains the evolution of this communitarian ideology, with focus on three areas: public housing, multiracialism and state capitalism, each of which poses different challenges to liberal approaches. With the passing of the first Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew and the end of the Cold War, the party is facing greater challenges from an educated populace that demands greater voice. This has led to liberalization of the cultural sphere, greater responsiveness and shifts in political rhetoric, but all without disrupting the continuing hegemony of the PAP in government.



Chua Beng Huat is Provost Chair Professor in the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore.

"... an important book. It's the best discussion of the history and significance of Singapore's distinctive political economy ... theoretically rich, well supported with ample sources, and benefitting from an insider's perspective."

– Daniel Bell, author of *The China Model*

 AND AUSTRALIA

June 2017

Paperback • US\$30 / S\$32
ISBN: 978-981-4722-50-6
248pp / 229 x 152mm

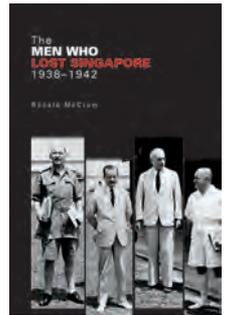
Ronald McCrum

The Men Who Lost Singapore, 1938–1942

The British military failure against the Japanese invasion of Singapore in 1942 is a well-documented and closely examined episode. While attention is frequently drawn to the role of the Colonial Governor and his staff during this period, the participation of the civil authorities has not been subjected to the same rigorous scrutiny.

In this book, Ronald McCrum undertakes a close examination of the role and the responsibilities of the colonial authorities both in the lead-up to the war and during it. He contends that the colonial government, by pursuing different priorities, needlessly created distraction and confusion. Additionally, the poor, even hostile, relations that developed between the local government and the British military hierarchy impeded a joint approach to the growing threat and affected the course of this campaign. McCrum displays how the tawdry management of civil defence matters led to unnecessary loss of civilian life.

Ronald McCrum is a retired British Army Officer and military historian.



February 2017

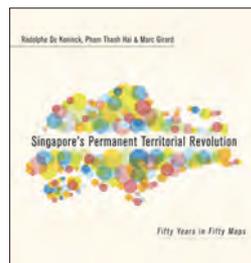
Paperback • US\$34 / S\$36
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-39-1
 296pp / 229 x 152mm
 10 b/w photographs

“It is a must-read for anyone wishing to understand why Singapore’s fall occurred in the manner it did.”

– Greg Kennedy, King’s College, London

Singapore's Permanent Territorial Revolution: Fifty Years in Fifty Maps

Ever since Singapore became an independent nation in 1965, its government has been intent on transforming the island's environment. This has led to a nearly constant overhaul of the landscape, whether still natural or already manmade. Not only are the shape and dimensions of the main island and its subsidiary ones constantly modified so are their relief and hydrology. No stone is left unturned, literally, and, one could add, nor is a single cultural feature, be it a house, a factory, a road or a cemetery. Given one of Singapore's unique feature, namely that the state is the sole landlord, all types of property in all parts of the island, rural as well as urban, were and remain subject to expropriation, fortunately always with due compensation. This atlas illustrates, through diachronic mapping of the changing distribution of all forms of land use, the universality of what has become a tool of social management. By constantly "replanning" the rules of access to space, the Singaporean State is thus redefining territoriality, even in its minute details. This is one reason it has been able to consolidate its control over civil society, peacefully and to an extent rarely known in history.



Rodolphe De Koninck was professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Montreal and holder of the Canada Chair of Asian Research.

Pham Thanh Hai is a cartographer and GIS specialist based in Hanoi, where he is attached to the VTGEO.

Marc Girard is a cartographer and GIS specialist in the Department of Geography at the University of Montreal.

"It is a must-read for not only developmental specialists, economists and political scientists but also secondary and university students to better understand the dynamics of how Singapore got to where it is today."

– Tan Kheng Soon, Akitek Tenggara



April 2017

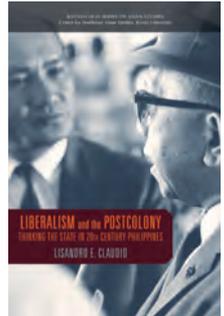
Casebound • US\$40 / S\$48
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-35-3
 168pp / 286 x 270mm
 130 colour maps, 33 b/w
 images, 16 b/w graphs,
 9 tables

Lisandro E. Claudio

Liberalism and the Postcolony: Thinking the State in 20th-Century Philippines

Extricating liberalism from the haze of anti-modernist and anti-European caricature, this book traces the role of liberal philosophy in the building of a new nation. It examines the role of toleration, rights, and mediation in the postcolony. Through the biographies of four Filipino scholar-bureaucrats—Camilo Osias, Salvador Araneta, Carlos P. Romulo, and Salvador P. Lopez—Lisandro E. Claudio argues that liberal thought served as the grammar of Filipino democracy in the 20th century. By looking at various articulations of liberalism in pedagogy, international affairs, economics, and literature, Claudio not only narrates an obscured history of the Philippine state, he also argues for a new liberalism rooted in the postcolonial experience, a timely intervention considering current developments in politics in Southeast Asia.

Lisandro E. Claudio is currently assistant professor at the Development Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University. By May 2017, he will be associate professor at the Department of History, De La Salle University, Manila.



W x JAPAN
PHILIPPINES

KYOTO-CSEAS SERIES
ON ASIAN STUDIES

March 2017

Paperback • US\$34 / S\$38
ISBN: 978-981-4722-52-0
240pp / 229 x 152mm
17 b/w photos

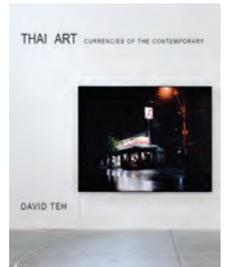
David Teh

Thai Art: Currencies of the Contemporary

Since the 1990s, Thai contemporary art has achieved international recognition, circulating globally by way of biennials, museums, and commercial galleries. Many Thai artists have shed identification with their nation; but “Thainess” remains an interpretive crutch for understanding their work. In this book, the curator and critic David Teh examines the tension between the global and the local in Thai contemporary art. Writing the first serious study of Thai art since 1992, he describes the competing claims to contemporaneity, as staked in Thailand and on behalf of Thai art elsewhere. He shows how the values of the global art world are exchanged with local ones, how they do and don’t correspond, and how these discrepancies have been exploited.

How can we make sense of globally circulating art without forgoing the interpretive resources of the local, national, or regional context? Teh examines the work of artists who straddle the local and the global, becoming willing agents of assimilation yet resisting homogenization. He describes the transition from an artistic subjectivity couched in terms of national community to a more qualified, postnational one, against the backdrop of the singular but waning sovereignty of the Thai monarchy and sustained political and economic turmoil.

David Teh is assistant professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore. He is an independent curator and critic who has organized exhibits in Europe, Australia, and across Southeast Asia.



May 2017

Casebound • US\$32 / S\$42
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-51-3
 288pp / 229 x 178mm
 24 colour images,
 25 b/w images

Ross King

Heritage and Identity in Contemporary Thailand: Memory, Place and Power

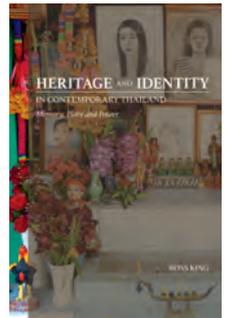
Heritage and Identity in Contemporary Thailand explores the intersections of memory, place, power and tourism in the production of Thai heritage and identity. The author shows that underlying officially promulgated ideas is a much deeper, richer and sometimes darker substratum of memories and practices that both undermine and enrich conventional ideas of Thailand as a Kingdom, a nation and a culture.

The book views Thai culture and its heritage from a variety of perspectives that are derived from the work of Thai scholars but refracted through a more Western epistemology and its attendant critical theory. Through a juxtaposition of Thai and Western critical scholarship, it highlights key elements of Thai identity or, more accurately, the diversity of Thai identities. In the process, the book raises questions about both Thai and Western thinking about knowledge and its production.

Ross King is a professorial fellow and formerly Dean in the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He is currently engaged in research and graduate supervision in various Southeast Asian universities.

“Elegantly presented, the book offers comprehensive, insightful and penetrating analyses of its deep subject and sound conclusions in the light of leading scholarship in the field.”

–John H. Stubbs, Tulane School of Architecture



January 2017

Paperback • US\$32 / S\$38
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-27-8
 334pp / 229 x 152mm
 52 b/w images

Contemporary Indonesian Art: Artists, Art Spaces, and Collectors

Indonesian art entered the global contemporary art world of independent curators, art fairs, and biennales in the 1990s. By the mid-2000s, Indonesian works were well-established on the Asian secondary art market, achieving record-breaking prices at auction houses in Singapore and Hong Kong. This comprehensive overview introduces Indonesian contemporary art in a fresh and stimulating manner, demonstrating how contemporary art breaks from colonial and post-colonial power structures, and grapples with issues of identity and nation-building in Indonesia. Across different media, in performance and installation, it amalgamates ethnic, cultural, and religious references in its visuals, and confidently brings together the traditional (batik, woodcut, dance, Javanese shadow puppet theater) with the contemporary (comics and manga, graffiti, advertising, pop culture).

Spielmann's *Contemporary Indonesian Art* surveys the key artists, curators, institutions, and collectors in the local art scene and looks at the significance of Indonesian art in the Asian context. Through this book, originally published in German, Spielmann stakes a claim for the global relevance of Indonesian art.

Yvonne Spielmann is a visiting research fellow at NTU Center for Contemporary Art, Singapore. She was Dean of Faculty of Fine Arts at Lasalle College of the Arts in Singapore. Previously she was Research Professor of New Media at the University of the West of Scotland, and Professor of Visual Media at Braunschweig University of Art. She holds the 2009 Lewis Mumford Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Ecology of Technics and the 2011 Swedish Prize for Swedish-German Scientific Cooperation.

“Yvonne Spielmann makes it clear that Indonesian contemporary art must be seen in a different light from a Western understanding of the contemporary. The book is an illuminating introduction to the Indonesian art world.”

– **Carla Bianpoen**, arts journalist and writer, Artistic Director and Co-Curator for the Indonesia Pavilion at the Venice Visual Art Biennales, 2013 and 2015.

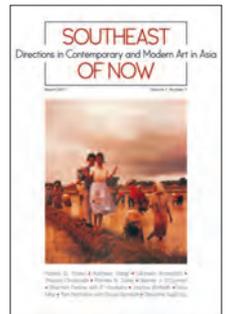


February 2017

Casebound • US\$42 / S\$46
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-36-0
 240pp / 235 x 187mm
 65 colour illustrations

Southeast of Now: Directions in Contemporary and Modern Art in Asia

Southeast of Now aims to look and listen closely to the discursive spaces of art in, from, and around the region that is referred to as Southeast Asia, from a historical perspective. The journal presents a necessarily diverse range of perspectives not only on the contemporary and modern art of Southeast Asia, but indeed of the region itself: its borders, its identity, its efficacy, and its limitations as a geographical marker and a conceptual category. As such, the journal is defined by a commitment to the need for and importance of rigorous discussion, of the contemporary and modern art of the domain that lies south of China, east of India, and north of Australia.



Published twice a year in March and October. Vol. 1, Issue 1 will be launched in March 2017. Register with Project MUSE to enjoy free previews of Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 2017) and Vol. 1, No. 2 (October 2017). Subsequent issues from Vol. 2, No. 1 (March 2018) will be available upon subscription.

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Online only	US\$250	US\$375
Print & Online (inclusive of postage)	US\$300	US\$450



US-Singapore Relations, 1965-1975: Strategic Non-alignment in the Cold War

At the height of the Cold War in Southeast Asia, the foreign relations between the United States and Singapore demonstrated the interplay between America's strategy of containment and Singapore's efforts at a non-aligned foreign policy. But there is a deeper story. American involvement in the Vietnam War not only held back the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, but also catalysed economic and strategic cooperation between the United States and Singapore. The author argues that Singapore might not have achieved its success so rapidly without the support of the US.

As the war in Vietnam raged on, Singapore became a critical refueling point, also providing ship and aircraft repair for the US military. Commercial and strategic support from the United States lifted Singapore out of the economic doom predicted for the city-state after secession from Malaysia, cessation of Indonesian trade during *Konfrontasi* and Britain's military withdrawal. By considering the importance of the US's role in Singapore's nation-building, this book provides an important supplement to the well-trodden narrative that attributes Singapore's success to good governance.

Daniel Chua is assistant professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



June 2017

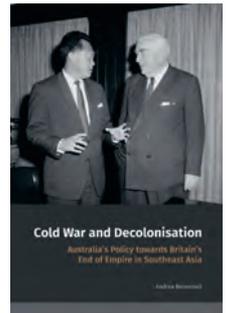
Paperback • US\$34 / S\$38
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-32-2
 296pp / 229 x 152mm

Andrea Benvenuti

Cold War and Decolonisation: Australia's Policy towards Britain's End of Empire in Southeast Asia

Australia's policy towards Britain's end of empire in Southeast Asia influenced the course of this decolonization in the region. In this book, Andrea Benvenuti discusses the development of Australia's foreign and defence policies towards Malaya and Singapore in light of the redefinition of Britain's imperial role in Southeast Asia and the formation of new post-colonial states. Placed within the emerging literature on the global impact of the Cold War, the book sheds new light on the choices made—by Australia, by Britain and the new emerging states—in these crucial years.

Andrea Benvenuti is a senior lecturer in International Relations and European Studies at the School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales, Australia.



May 2017

Paperback • US\$32 / S\$38
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-19-3
 320pp / 229 x 152mm

Translating the Body: Medical Education in Southeast Asia

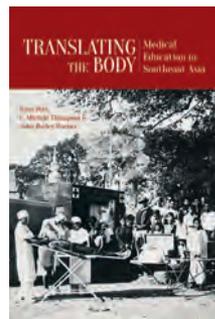
Until recently, receiving a European or North American-style medical education in Southeast Asia was a profoundly transformative experience, as western conceptions of the body differed significantly from indigenous knowledge and explanatory frameworks. Further, European and North American conceptions of the human body had to be translated into local languages and related to vernacular views of health, disease, and healing. This process of medical translation developed in the context of colonialism, which sought to remake colonized societies in a multitude of ways. The contributors to this volume chart and analyze the organization of western medical education in Southeast Asia, public health education campaigns in the region, and the ways in which practitioners of what came to be conceived of as “traditional medicine” in many Southeast Asian countries organized themselves in response.

This volume uses “translating the body” as shorthand to call attention to the processes through which medical ideas, practices, and epistemologies are formulated in pedagogical contexts, processes involving both interpretation and transmission. Translation here is a linguistic but also a cultural operation, and in approaching medical education, the book follows recent work in translation studies that underscores the translation not merely of words but of cultures.

Hans Pols is associate professor at the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney.

C. Michele Thompson is professor of Southeast Asian History at Southern Connecticut State University.

John Harley Warner is the Avalon Professor of the History of Medicine at Yale University, where he is Professor of History, of History of Science and Medicine, and of American Studies, and Chair of the Section of the History of Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine.



HISTORY OF MEDICINE
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
SERIES

June 2017

Paperback • US\$34 / \$538
ISBN: 978-981-4722-05-6
368pp / 229 x 152mm
25 b/w illustrations

Vanina Bouté and Vatthana Pholsena

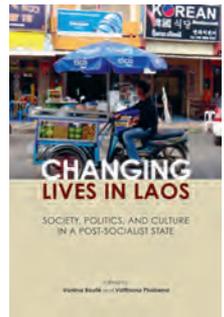
Editors

Changing Lives in Laos: Society, Politics, and Culture in a Post-Socialist State

Changes in the character of the political regime in Laos after 2000, a massive influx of foreign investment, and disruptions to rural life arising from improved communications and new forms of mobility within and across the borders have produced a major transformation. Alongside these changes, a group of young scholars carried out studies that document the rise of a new social, cultural and economic order. The contributions to this volume draw on original fieldwork materials and unpublished sources, and provide fresh analyses of topics ranging from the structures of power to the politics of territoriality and new forms of sociability in emerging urban spaces.

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Vanina Bouté is associate professor at the Sociology Department, University of Picardie.

Vatthana Pholsena is associate professor at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, and a Fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).



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April 2017

Paperback • US\$38 / S\$42
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-26-1
 496pp / 229 x 152mm
 25 b/w images, 10 maps
 and tables

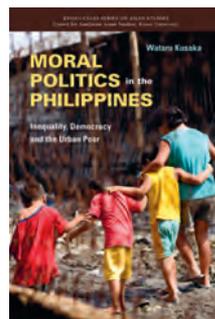
Moral Politics in the Philippines: Inequality, Democracy and the Urban Poor

People power famously enabled “the people” of the Philippines to oust Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, but in the years that followed “the people” split into two categories, “citizens” and the “masses.” The educated middle class viewed itself as moral “citizens” who rightly participated in politics, and the poor as immoral “masses” who took part in illicit activities and supported corrupt leaders. The poor saw themselves as morally upright and “the rich” as arrogant and oppressive.

The moralization of politics worsened class antagonism and destabilized elections and urban governance between 1998 and 2004, but solidarity of “the people” re-emerged in opposition to corruption under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The hegemony of “the people” survived to propel Benigno Aquino III to a landslide victory in 2010, but socio-economic inequality and elite rule continue to characterize Philippine society.

The author argues that the moralization of politics threatens democracy by defining some citizens as immoral people who should be excluded from political participation, and by blocking re-allocation of resources through interest politics.

Wataru Kusaka is associate professor at the Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University.



W x JAPAN

KYOTO-CSEAS SERIES
ON ASIAN STUDIES

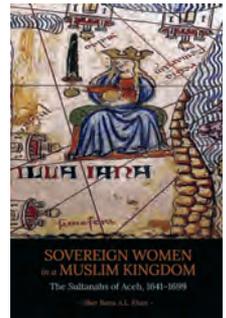
February 2017

Casebound • US\$48 / \$555
ISBN: 978-981-4722-38-4
360pp / 229 x 152mm
26 b/w photos, 26 maps,
tables and charts

Sovereign Women in a Muslim Kingdom: The Sultanahs of Aceh, 1641–1699

The Islamic kingdom of Aceh was ruled by queens for half of the 17th century. Was female rule an aberration? Unnatural? A violation of nature, comparable to hens instead of roosters crowing at dawn? Indigenous texts and European sources offer different evaluations. Drawing on both sets of sources, this book shows that female rule was legitimised both by Islam and *adat* (indigenous customary laws), and provides original insights on the Sultanah's leadership, their relations with male elites, and their encounters with European envoys who visited their court. The book challenges received views on kingship in the Malay world and the response of indigenous polities to east-west encounters in Southeast Asia's Age of Commerce.

Sher Banu A.L. Khan is assistant professor at the Malay Studies Department, National University of Singapore.



“The author is to be congratulated on a book that makes a significant contribution both to the history of Southeast Asia and to comparative studies on women in early modern Asia.”

– **Barbara Watson Andaya** and **Leonard Y. Andaya**, University of Hawai'i

W x THE AMERICAS

May 2017

Paperback • US\$34 / S\$38
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-20-9
 336pp / 229 x 152mm
 3 b/w illustrations, 1 map

Sovereignty and the Sea: How Indonesia Became an Archipelagic State

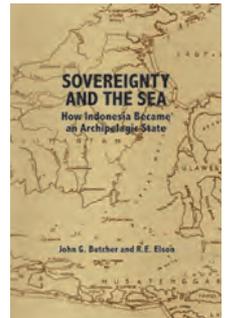
Until the mid-1950s nearly all the waters lying between the far-flung islands of the Indonesian archipelago were as open to the ships of all nations as the waters of the great oceans. In order to enhance its failing sovereign grasp over the nation, as well as to deter perceived external threats to Indonesia's national integrity, in 1957 the Indonesian government declared that it had "absolute sovereignty" over all the waters lying within straight baselines drawn between the outermost islands of Indonesia. At a single step, Indonesia had asserted its dominion over a vast swathe of what had hitherto been seas open to all, and made its lands and the seas it now claimed a single unified entity for the first time.

International outrage and alarm ensued, expressed especially by the great maritime nations. Nevertheless, despite its low international profile, its relative poverty, and its often frail state capacity, Indonesia eventually succeeded in gaining international recognition for its claim when, in 1982, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea formally recognized the existence of a new category of states known as "archipelagic states" and declared that these states had sovereignty over their "archipelagic waters".

Sovereignty and the Sea explains how Indonesia succeeded in its extraordinary claim. At the heart of Indonesia's archipelagic campaign was a small group of Indonesian diplomats. Largely because of their dogged persistence, negotiating skills, and willingness to make difficult compromises Indonesia became the greatest archipelagic state in the world.

John G. Butcher began his academic career at Murdoch University and then taught for 32 years at Griffith University, where he is currently adjunct associate professor in the Department of International Business and Asian Studies.

R.E. Elson is Emeritus Professor of Southeast Asian History at the University of Queensland, having previously worked at Monash University, Griffith University, and the Australian National University.



March 2017

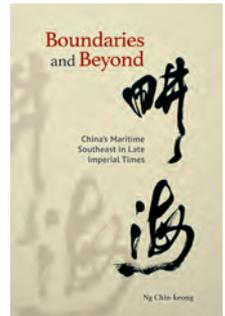
Casebound • US\$52 / S\$58
 ISBN: 978-981-4722-21-6
 560pp / 229 x 152mm
 23 halftones, 5 maps

Boundaries and Beyond: China's Maritime Southeast in Late Imperial Times

Using the concept of boundaries, physical and cultural, to understand the development of China's maritime southeast in late Imperial times, and its interactions across maritime East Asia and the broader Asian Seas, these linked essays by a senior scholar in the field challenge the usual readings of Chinese history from the centre. After an opening essay which positions China's southeastern coast within a broader view of maritime Asia, the first section of the book looks at boundaries, between "us" and "them", Chinese and other, during this period. The second section looks at the challenges to such rigid demarcations posed by the state and its existence in the status quo. The third section discusses movements of people, goods and ideas across national borders and cultural boundaries, seeing tradition and innovation as two contesting forces in a constant state of interaction, compromise and reconciliation. This approach underpins a fresh understanding of China's boundaries and the distinctions that separate China from the rest of the world.

In developing this theme, Ng Chin-keong draws on many years of writing and research in Chinese and European archives. Of interest to students of migration, of Chinese history, and of the long term perspective on relations between China and its region, Ng's analysis provides a crucial background to the historical shared experience of the people in Asian maritime zones. The result is a novel way of approaching Chinese history, argued from the perspective of a fresh understanding of China's relations with neighbouring territories and the populations residing there, and of the nature of tradition and its persistence in the face of changing circumstances.

Ng Chin-keong was professor of Chinese History at the National University of Singapore until his retirement in 2006.



October 2016

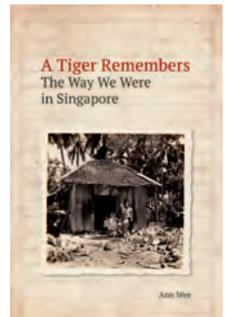
Casebound • US\$56 / S\$60
ISBN: 978-981-4722-01-8
518pp / 229 x 152mm

A Tiger Remembers: The Way We Were in Singapore

Born in the Year of the Fire Tiger, Ann Wee moved to Singapore in 1950 to marry into a Singaporean Chinese family. One of Singapore's pioneering social work educators, Ann shares her experiences frankly and with great humour. She remembers the things that history books leave out: questions of hygiene, the emotional nuance in social relations, stories of ghost wives and changeling babies, rural clan settlements and migrant dormitories, what was lost and gained when families moved into HDB estates.

Affectionately observed and wittily narrated, with a deep appreciation of how far Singapore has changed, this book brings to life the country's social transformation by talking about the family, "in its 101 different shapes and sizes, with its capacity to cope which ranges from truly marvellous to distinctly tatty: still, in one form or another, the best place for most of us to be".

Often described as the founding mother of social work in Singapore, **Ann Wee** arrived in Singapore in 1950. Her contributions to social work extended to her shaping the education system for social work undergraduates. She is now an associate professorial fellow at the National University of Singapore.



"... really required reading for anyone who is keen to learn about the social faultlines in Singapore from the 1950s to the 1980s...."

– The Straits Times



RIDGE BOOKS

October 2016

Paperback • US\$20 / S\$18
ISBN: 978-981-4722-37-7
160pp / 216 x 140mm
12 illustrations

Timothy P. Barnard

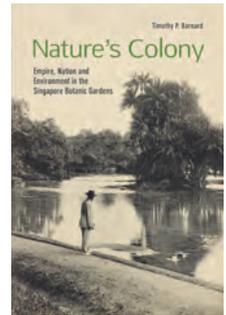
Nature's Colony: Empire, Nation and Environment in the Singapore Botanic Gardens

Established in 1859, Singapore's Botanic Gardens has been important as a park for Singaporeans and visitors, a scientific institution, and as an economic testing ground and launchpad for tropical plantation agriculture around the world. Underlying each of these stories is the broader narrative of the Botanic Gardens an arena where power and the natural world meet and interact, a story that has impact far beyond the boundaries of its grounds.

Initially conceived to exploit nature for the benefit of empire, the Gardens were part of a symbolic struggle by administrators, scientists, and gardeners to assert dominance within Southeast Asia's tropical landscape, reflecting shifting understandings of power, science and nature among local administrators and distant mentors in Britain. With the independence of Singapore, the Gardens has had to find a new role, first in the "greening" of post-independence Singapore, and now as Singapore's first World Heritage Site.

Setting the Singapore gardens alongside the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and botanic gardens in India, Ceylon, Mauritius and the West Indies, this book tells the story of nature's colony — a place where plants were collected, classified and cultivated to change our understanding of the region and world.

Timothy P. Barnard is associate professor in the Department of History at the National University of Singapore, where he specializes in the environmental and cultural history of islands in Southeast Asia. He is the editor of *Nature Contained: Environmental Histories of Singapore* and *Contesting Malayness: Malay Identity Across Boundaries*, also published by NUS Press.

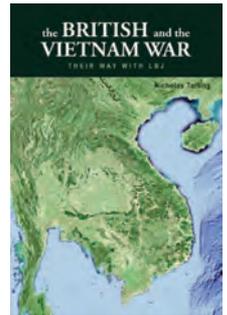


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 25 illustrations

The British and the Vietnam War: Their Way with LBJ

During the presidency of Lyndon Johnson, the British government sought to avoid escalation of the war in Vietnam and to help bring about peace. The thinking that lay behind these endeavours was often insightful and it is hard to argue that the attempt was not worth making, but the British government was able to exert little, if any, influence on a power with which it believed it had, and needed, a special relationship. Drawing on little-used papers in the British archives, Nicholas Tarling describes the making of Britain's Vietnam policy during a period when any compromise proposed by London was likely to be seen in Washington as suggestive of defeat, and attempts to involve Moscow in the process over-estimated the USSR's influence on a Hanoi determined on reunification.



Nicholas Tarling was professor of History at the University of Auckland (1968–97) and has since been a Fellow of its New Zealand Asia Institute. He was the editor of *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia* and has published many other books and articles in that field and others. Among them are *Britain and the Neutralisation of Laos* [NUS Press, 2009] and *Britain and Sihanouk's Cambodia* [NUS Press, 2014].

“The British and the Vietnam War completes Nicholas Tarling’s trilogy on the Second Indochina War seen from a British perspective.... Meticulously researched and written, it provides an alternative to overwhelmingly American focus of much of the existing literature, and is an indispensable source of information for anyone interested in the international politics of the Second Indochina War.”

– Ang Cheng Guan, Nanyang Technological University



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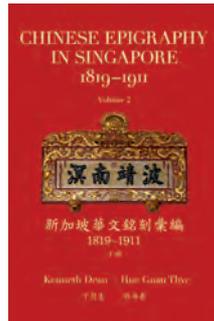
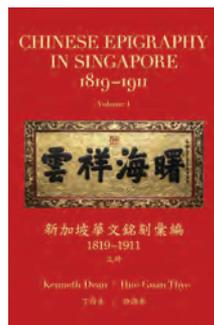
Kenneth Dean and Hue Guan Thye

Chinese Epigraphy in Singapore, 1819–1911

The history of Singapore's Chinese community is carved in stone and wood: in the epigraphic record of 62 Chinese temples, native-place associations, clan and guild halls, from 1819 to 1911. These materials include temple plaques, couplets, stone inscriptions, stone and bronze censers, and other inscribed objects found in these institutions. They provide first-hand historical information on the aspirations and contributions of the early generation of Chinese settlers in Singapore. Early inscriptions reveal the centrality of these institutions to Chinese life in Singapore, while later inscriptions show the many ways that these institutions have evolved over the years. Many have become deeply engaged in social welfare projects, while others have also become centers of transnational networks. These materials, available in Chinese and in English translation, open a window into the world of Chinese communities in Singapore. These cultural artifacts can also be appreciated for their exceptional artistic value. They are a central part of the heritage of Singapore.

Kenneth Dean is professor at the Asia Research Institute and head of the Department of Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore.

Hue Guan Thye is senior research fellow at the Department of Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore.



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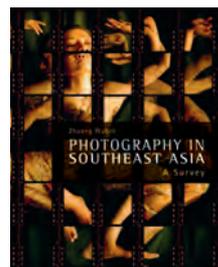
“... a repository of Singapore cultural and historical heritage ...an indispensable tool.”

– **Claudine Salmon**, Director of Research Emeritus at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris

Zhuang Wubin

Photography in Southeast Asia: A Survey

Photography in Southeast Asia is a comprehensive attempt to map the emergence and trajectories of photographic practices in Southeast Asia. The narrative begins in the colonial era, at the point when the transfer of photographic technology occurred between visiting practitioners and local photographers. With individual chapters dedicated to the countries of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam, the bulk of the book spans the post-World War Two era to the contemporary, focusing on practitioners who operate with agency and autonomy. The relationship between art and photography, which has been defined very narrowly over the decades, is re-examined in the process. Photography also offers an entry point into the cultural and social practices of the region, and a prism into the personal desires and creative decisions of its practitioners.



Zhuang Wubin is a writer, curator, educator and photographer. As a writer, he focuses on the photographic practices of Southeast Asia. A 2010 recipient of the research grant from Prince Claus Fund (Amsterdam), Zhuang is an editorial board member of *Trans-Asia Photography Review*. In 2013, Galeri Soemardja at the Institute Technology of Bandung, Indonesia, invited Zhuang for a curatorial residency. As a photographer, Zhuang uses the medium to visualise the stories of the Chinese communities in Southeast Asia.

“... this original study also offers an insight into the role of images and visuality in shaping Southeast Asian society, culture and politics.”

– **Nora Taylor**, Professor, Art History, Theory and Criticism, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

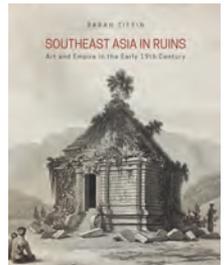


September 2016

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 212 b/w photographs

Southeast Asia in Ruins: Art and Empire in the Early 19th Century

British artists and commentators in the late 18th and early 19th century encoded the twin aspirations of progress and power in images and descriptions of Southeast Asia's ruined Hindu and Buddhist candis, pagodas, wats and monuments. To the British eye, images of the remains of past civilisations allowed, indeed stimulated, philosophical meditations on the rise and decline of entire empires. Ruins were witnesses to the fall, humbling and disturbingly prophetic, and so revealing more about British attitudes than they do about Southeast Asia's cultural remains. This important study of a highly appealing but relatively neglected body of work adds multiple dimensions to the history of art and image production in Britain of the period, showing how the anxieties of empire were encoded in the genre of landscape paintings and prints.



Sarah Tiffin was formerly curator of Asian Art at the Queensland Art Gallery. She is the author of *Sparse Shadows*, *Flying Pearls: A Japanese Screen Revealed*.

“A substantial new contribution to the history of British art ... adds a fascinating new chapter to recent scholarship on landscape painting.”

– **Tim Barringer**, Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art, Yale University



August 2016

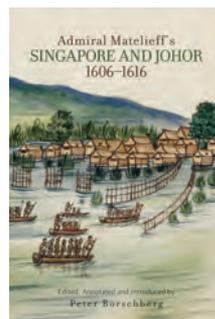
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Peter Borschberg

editor

Admiral Matelieff's Singapore and Johor, 1606–1616

Few authors have as much to say about Singapore and Johor in the early 17th century as Cornelis Matelieff de Jonge (c.1570–1632). This admiral of the Dutch East India Company sailed to Asia in 1605 and besieged Portuguese Melaka in 1606 with the help of Malay allies. A massive Portuguese armada arrived from Goa to fight the Dutch at sea, break the siege and relieve the Portuguese colony. During his Asian voyage and on his return to Europe in September 1608, Matelieff penned a series of letters and memorials in which he provided a candid assessment of trading opportunities and politics in Asia. He advised the VOC and leading government officials of the Dutch Republic to take a long term view of Dutch involvement in Asia and fundamentally change the way they were doing business there. Singapore, the Straits region, and Johor assumed a significant role in his overall assessment. At one stage he seriously contemplated establishing the VOC's main Asian base at a location near the Johor River estuary. On deeper reflection, however, Matelieff and the VOC directors in Europe began to shift their attention southward and instead preferred a location around the Sunda Strait. This was arguably a near miss for Singapore two full centuries before Thomas Stamford Raffles founded the British trading post on the island in 1819.



Peter Borschberg is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and teaches history at the National University of Singapore. He is also a visiting professor at the Asia-Europe Institute at the University of Malaya as well as a guest professor in Modern History at the University of Greifswald.



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China: An International Journal

Vol. 1 (2003) through current issue

Published in February, May, August and November by Singapore's East Asian Institute, *China: An International Journal* focuses on contemporary China, including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, covering the fields of politics, economics, society, geography, law, culture and international relations.

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Journal of Burma Studies

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The *Journal of Burma Studies* is one of the only scholarly peer-reviewed printed journals dedicated exclusively to Burma. Jointly sponsored by the Burma Studies Group and the Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, the *Journal* is published twice a year, in June and December. The *Journal* seeks to publish the best scholarly research focused on Burma/Myanmar and its minority and diasporic cultures from a variety of disciplines, ranging from art history and religious studies, to economics and law. Published since 1997, it draws together research and critical reflection on Burma/Myanmar from scholars across Asia, North America and Europe.

Asian Bioethics Review

Inaugural edition (2008);

Vol. 1 (2009) through current issue

The *Asian Bioethics Review* covers a broad range of topics relating to bioethics. An online academic journal, *ABR* provides a forum to express and exchange original ideas on all aspects of bioethics, especially those relevant to the region. The *Review* promotes multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary studies and will appeal to all working in the field of ethics in medicine and healthcare, genetics, law, policy, science studies and research.

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Cover image: President Lyndon B. Johnson meets with His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew, the late Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore in 1967 at the Oval Office, White House, Washington, DC (Photo by Yoichi Okamoto, courtesy of LBJ Library, Serial # A4985-10).

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