

Recent Books from Thailand – July 2021

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Anthropology

Birds' Nests: Business and Ethnicity in Southeast Asia / Kasem Jandam
Chiang Mai : Silkworm Books, 2021

412p.; 17cm.

9786162151675

\$ 60.00 / PB

Southeast Asia is renowned for birds' nests and bird's-nest trade, which is highly valued. The bird's nest is dubbed as 'White Gold' and 'Caviar of the East.'

This book offers knowledge of birds' nests in various dimensions: the history in using of birds nests, the way of beliefs about birds-backed rituals within the ethnicities, and wisdom in the bird's-nest business world: the bird's-nest consumption and its impact on ecology and the environment, the innovations in the bird's nest-business and the legal system related to the benefit and property of the public, private, community, and non-exclusive economic nesting resources. It also covers the trade and the relationship of ethnic groups within the state and across the country—the influence of Hong Kong's bird's-nest market to the bird's-nest business in Southeast Asia.

Birds' Nests. Business and Ethnicity in Southeast Asia: An Anthropological Study of Business is a co-publication between TSRI Publications and Silkworm Books.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=756657>

Citizen Designs : City-Making and Democracy in Northeastern Thailand /
Eli Elinoff

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA: University of Hawaii Press, 2021

xvi, 294p. ; 12 b&w illustrations

Includes Index

9780824884598

1. City planning – Thailand, Northeastern – Citizen participation.
2. City planning – Political aspects – Thailand – Northeastern.
3. Squatters – Political activity – Thailand, Northeastern.
4. Democracy – Thailand, Northeastern.

\$ 68.00 / HB

628gm.

What does it mean to design democratic cities and democratic citizens in a time of mass urbanization and volatile political transformation? *Citizen Designs: City-Making and Democracy in Northeastern Thailand* addresses this question by exploring the ways that democratic urban planning projects intersect with emerging political aspirations among squatters living in the northeastern Thai city of Khon Kaen. Based on ethnographic and historical research conducted since 2007, *Citizen Designs* describes how residents of Khon Kaen's railway squatter communities used Thailand's experiment in participatory urban planning as a means of reimagining their citizenship, remaking their communities, and acting upon their aspirations for political equality and the good life. It also shows how the Thai state used participatory planning and design to manage both situated political claims and emerging politics. Through ethnographic analysis of contentious collaborations between residents, urban activists, state planners, participatory architects, and city officials, Eli Elinoff's analysis reveals how the Khon Kaen's railway settlements became sites of contestation over political inclusion and the meaning and value of democracy as a political form in the first decades of the twenty-first century. Elinoff examines how residents embraced politics as a means of enacting their equality. This embrace inspired new debates about the meaning of good citizenship and how democracy might look and feel. The disagreements over citizenship, like those Elinoff describes in Khon Kaen, reflect the kinds of aspirations for political equality that have been fundamental to Thailand's political transformation over the last two decades, which has seen new political actors asserting themselves at the ballot box and in the streets alongside the retrenchment of military authoritarianism. *Citizen Designs* offers new conceptual and empirical insights into the lived effects of Thailand's political volatility and into the current moment of democratic ambivalence, mass urbanization, and authoritarian resurgence.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775770>

Education

Hmong Songs in Education Through a Therapeutic Lens : An Innovative Approach in Northern Thailand / Mary Elizabeth Saurman

Bangkok: White Lotus Co., Ltd., 2021

xiv, 350p. ; illus, ; 145x215mm.

9789748495187

\$ 50.00 / PB

474gm.

Hmong Songs in Education Through a Therapeutic Lens : An Innovative Approach in Northern Thailand offers an in-depth exploration of a new approach for reshaping a minority community's education system that was failing. This alternative approach based on intensive studies may also be applied in other communities where conventional education systems are not succeeding.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768867>

History

Scramble For Rails : Japanese Military Transport on Thai Railways during World War II / Ichiro Kakizaki

Bangkok: White Lotus Press (White Lotus Co., Ltd.) 2020

xii, 294p. ; 24 unnumbered pages of colored plates : illustrations (some color), maps, charts ; 30cm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789748434681

\$ 37.50 / PB

802gm.

Scramble for Rails: Japanese Military Transport on Thai Railways during World War II Is a groundbreaking study of military transport on Thai railways by the Japanese army during the war. Although most people recall the Thai-Burma line when hearing such keywords as Thailand, the Japanese army, railways, and World War II, the Japanese army in fact utilized almost all railways in Thailand for military purposes. This book explicates the overall characteristics of Japanese military transport from the abundant historical materials regarding the operation and transport of Japanese military trains preserved at the National Archives of Thailand.

It clearly describes how the Japanese army utilized Thai railways, clarifying transport items, routes and volumes. Apart from transport by Japanese military trains, the use of civilian trains by Japanese soldiers is also analyzed. The change in the distribution of Japanese garrisons is also clarified in this book. Since few studies reveal the locations of Japanese garrisons in Thailand during the war, the author compiled various materials both in Thailand and in Japan to elucidate the distribution of Japanese garrisons during each period of the war. The Thai government's efforts to regain control of its rail transport is another topic of this book. Although the Japanese army used a large share of Thai rail transport at the outbreak of the war, Thailand took steps to regain its rolling stock from the Japanese army to recover its civil transport. Thailand could recover part of its rolling stock by curtailing Japanese military trains in certain periods. This scramble for rails between Japan and Thailand peaked at the end of war, when the Japanese army tried to seize the operation of military trains on Thai railways while the Thais tried to maintain control.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=674226>

Linguistics

A Handbook of Thai Language / Keeratikhun Chuenchomrat (Champagne)
Southeast Asian Language Series No. 1

Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Press, 2020

240p.

English & Thai Language

9786165687942

1. Thai language – Usage.

\$ 30.00 / PB

294gm.

Book Details:

“The very first textbook of mine. For 19 years have I serviced to the faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University as a lecturer for the Intensive Thai Programme - Thai for foreigners. The programme is called Center for Thai as Foreign Language now. My specialization is the grammar of Thai language, critical reading, social and cultural issues. 2 years ago, an American student came to me and said "why don't you write what you have taught us?" Since then I have collected data; have noted down and have written! “

A Handbook of Thai Language is sponsored by the Southeast Asian Studies Program, Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University under the project Southeast Asian Language series.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775771>

Literature

Beads On A String : A Novel of Southern Siam / Paul Wedel & Yuangrat Wedel

Bangkok: River Books Co. Ltd., 2021

636p.

9786164510487

\$ 16.95 / PB

652gm.

Siam at the turn of the 19th century. Four families in the southern peninsula are tied together by ambition, revenge, love and tragedy.

A young Malay imprisoned for rape reinvents himself as a Siamese aristocrat in royal service.

A beautiful young Thai woman seizes control of the family casino and defies the king's ban on gambling to form an underground criminal operation.

A guilt-ridden Thai-Chinese sailor seeks enlightenment and purpose as a wandering Buddhist monk.

A former slave fights to escape the domination of a Chinese secret society gangster and rises in the increasingly powerful police force.

A recreation of life in southern Siam at a time of wrenching change, *Beads on a String* weaves together these stories and others, immersing readers in a gripping epic, full of intrigue and insight.

"This family saga of ambition, identity and love in turn-of-the-century Siam is spellbinding" – Suzanne Fisher Staples, author

"Profound, sensitive and attuned to cultural gravitas, Beads on a String captures a sense of historical urgency during a momentous period in Siam and the southern peninsula." – Kong Rithdee, author and translator

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=756833>

Politics

Coup King Crisis : A Critical Interregnum in Thailand / (Ed) Pavin

Chachavalpongpun (Foreword) Charles F. Keyes

Yale Southeast Asia Studies – Monograph No. 68

New Haven, Connecticut, USA: Yale University Southeast Asia Studies, 2020

xii, 384p.

Includes Index
9781732610200
\$ 28.00 / PB
590gm.

The prospects of the inevitable end of the Bhumibol era loomed large over 21st century Thailand. Events have now taken their course, and King Maha Vajiralongkorn has been crowned. The new King is beginning to make his presence felt, but in important ways Thailand is still in an interregnum: a time when the old order is dying but a new one struggles to be born.

The military staged a coup in 2014, primarily, it is argued here, to take control over the royal transition. Vajiralongkorn, the military, and the institutions of Bhumibol's monarchy began to construct a working relationship against challenges from the faction of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, overthrown in a coup in 2006, but still popular and still a perceived threat to the power and position of the monarchy and the military.

This volume examines the royal transition in Thailand, from the 2014 coup through to the 2017 Constitution and the 2019 election. The royal transition sparked a crisis that pressured important institutions of the nation, from the politicized judiciary to the troubled Sanga or priesthood. The period of waiting has influenced all aspects of Thai governance, from foreign policy to economic management, to human rights and the spread of self-censorship. This volume, which brings together some of the leading writers on Thailand, is the first book-length analysis of this deep transition.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=765206>
