

Recent Books on Politics and Current Affairs - August 2010

Office

Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
Fax : +65-6883-2144
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Electing Hong Kong's Chief Executive / Simon N. M. Young & Richard Cullen
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xvii. 254p. ; 24cm.
ISBN-13: 9789888028399 (HB)
\$ 38.00

In 2007, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region held its first-ever contested election for Chief Executive, selected by 800 members of an Election Committee drawn from roughly 7% of the population. The outcome was a foregone conclusion, but the process allowed a pro-democracy legislator to obtain enough nominations to contest the election. The office of Chief Executive is as unique as the system used to fill the office, distinct from colonial governors and other leaders of Chinese provinces and municipalities. The head of the HKSAR enjoys greater autonomous powers, such as powers to nominate principal officials for Chinese appointment, pardon offenders and appoint judges. Despite its many anti-democratic features, the Election Committee has generated behavior typically associated with elections in leading capitalist democracies and has also gained prominence on the mainland as the vehicle for returning Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress. This book reviews the history and development of the Election Committee (and its predecessor), discusses its ties to legislative assemblies in Hong Kong and Mainland China, and reflects on the future of the system.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120306>

The Patriot Game : Writings on the Malaysian Wall / Kua Kia Soong
Malaysia : Oriengroup Sdn. Bhd., 2010
V, 158p.
978-983-9048-72-8
\$ 11.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119009>

Party Capitalism in Southeast Asia : Democracy's Bane? / Johan Saravanamuttu
Bangi, Malaysia : Institut Kajian Malaysia dan Antarabangsa, 2009
35p.
978-983-43443-2-0
Ishak Shari Memorial Lecture 2007 : Asia in the Twenty First Century
1. Capitalism – Southeast Asia
2. Democracy – Southeast Asia
3. Southeast Asia – Politics and Government
\$ 6.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122226>

Najib : Beginning of a Legacy : Commemorating One Year as Prime Minister of Malaysia / edited by Ng Tieh Chuan

Malaysia : MPH Group Publishing Sdn. Bhd., 2010
364p.

Includes Bibliography

978-967-5222-72-6

1. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Dato' Sri, 1953-
 2. Prime Minister – Malaysia
 3. Malaysia – Politics and Government
- \$ 90.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122227>

Ming Court Crisis : A Close and Intimate Knowledge of the Crisis behind the Scene / Ali Kawi

Malaysia : Golden Books Centre Sdn. Bhd., 2010

Xx, 142p.

978-983-72-0636-6

\$ 12.00

Ming Court was the name of one of the luxury hotels in Kuala Lumpur, In March 1987, the very well camouflaged plot to topple Datuk Abdul Taib Mahmud, The Chief Minister of Sarawak unfolded and Ming Court became the venue where 28 Assemblymen from Sarawak were accommodated and Room 707 of the hotel was turned into their operation room. This is the reason why this book is called 'Ming Court Crisis'

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122228>

Reforming Political Financing in Malaysia

Malaysia : Transparency International, 2010

234p.

978-983-42904-2-9

\$ 20.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122229>

The Rise of East Asia in the Pacific Region & the Reshaping of the Geography in the New Global Order of the 21st Century / Terry McGee

Bangi, Malaysia : Institut Kajian Malaysia dan Antarabangsa, 2010

38p.

978-983-43443-6-8

\$ 8.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122230>

Books for Critical Consciousness : Forty Reviews / J. Proglor

Pulau Pinang, Malaysia : Citizens International, 2010

309p.

Includes Index

978-983-3046-08-9

\$ 20.00

Paulo Freire argued that critical consciousness was a necessary feature of a liberatory education. By critical consciousness, he meant the ability to recognize the economic,

political and social contradictions that create, benefit and maintain an oppressive social order. This critical consciousness, accompanied by social action, was aimed at bringing about freedom and a just social order. Critical consciousness provides the tools through which learners can engage and shape their world. With this collection of book reviews, J. Progler aims to raise critical consciousness about contemporary economic, social and political problems that could be seen as remnants of the old physical order of colonialism, and which constitute instead a more subtle but on going form of intellectual colonialism.

The books fall into several categories, including politics, media studies, education and current events. Several of the books are rigorous scholarly treatises rooted in specific academic disciplines, such as anthropology, history and sociology, and written for specialized university students and other academics, while others are intended for more or less popular audience with an eye toward social activism. There are just as many theoretical as there are practical titles, and there are also a few literary works. Such a blend of outlooks, styles and topics is necessary for developing critical consciousness, in particular for general readers, because each style and topic offers its own way of looking at, analyzing and commenting upon the economic, political and social realities of the world today

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121650>

Sharing a future in Asia : Illusion or reality? / Abdul Rahman Embong
Bangi, Malaysia : Institut Kajian Malaysia dan Antarabangsa, 2009
32p.

978-983-43443-4-4

1. Speeches, addresses., etc
2. Asia – Social Conditions
3. Asia – Economic Conditions
4. Asia – Politics and Government

\$ 6.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122231>

Standing on the Cliff : Political Writings by Tay Tian Yan
Malaysia : Sin Chew Daily, 2009

184p.

978-983-3703-34-0

\$ 12.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122232>

Public Administration Singapore Style / Jon S. T. Quah

Singapore: Talisman Publishing Pte. Ltd., 2010

xxiii. 311p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789810853556

\$ 32.00

Singapore was ranked first for the competence of its public officials from 1999 to 2002 by the Global Competitiveness Report. While research has been done on various aspects of public administration in Singapore, there is to date no comprehensive study of the Singapore Civil Service and the statutory boards and their contribution to the attainment of national development goals. The aim of this book is to rectify this gap in the literature by providing a detailed study of public administration. The book's main conclusion is that the nature and success of public administration in Singapore results from the combined

influence of Singapore's context and the various policies introduced by the People's Action Party (PAP) government since it assumed office in June 1959, over 50 years ago.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122299>

International Relations in Southeast Asia: Between Bilateralism and Multilateralism / N. Ganesan & Ramses Amer
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2010
xix. 350p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789814279574
1. Southeast Asia – Foreign relations
\$ 34.90

"For observers outside of Southeast Asia, this book opens up a world of conflicts, rivalries, and reconciliations that is terra incognita. It is easy to assume that all is well under the consensual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) umbrella. These expert authors detail the sometimes stormy and often tense bilateral relationships in the region. In doing so they delineate the profound contribution that ASEAN has made to regional security and cooperation, but at the same time they show the limits of multilateralism as a mode of conflict resolution. Etel Solingen's introductory essay provides an extensive analytical vocabulary for regional politics, and the other authors have fascinating stories to tell about the interrelationships of Southeast Asian states since 1975."

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120733>

By Design or Accident: Reflections on Asian Security / Daljit Singh
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2010
xv. 171p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9789814279710 (HB)
1. National security – Asia
2. Political stability – Asia
3. Asia – Strategic aspects
\$ 26.90

Asia is rising and will wield greater economic and strategic weight in world affairs. However Asia also faces numerous challenges like poverty, domestic instability, deficiencies in governance and the rule of law, inter-state disputes and rivalries, and military build-ups, to name just a few. The celebration of Asia's rise would be premature if it is not accompanied by lasting peace and cooperation between states and justice and prosperity at home. The achievement of this happy state of affairs will require continuation of wise and pragmatic leadership, especially among the major powers. This collection of essays reflects on some of the major political and security issues in the region in recent times, including the balance of power among the major powers, American engagement and policies in Asia, India's rise, the global war on terrorism, the Iraq war, domestic developments in some countries as well as ASEAN's efforts to build regional peace and security.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120747>

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES 2010 : Home.Heart.Horizon / edited by Tarn How Tan
Singapore : World Scientific, 2010
156p.
978-981-4322-41-6
\$ 35.00

The Singapore Perspectives series is a yearly publication that provides critical analysis of emerging trends and issues Singapore faces in terms of social, economic and political development. It is a quick and essential reference for understanding the broad policy discussions that animate thought leaders, policy-makers and the public in the country during the immediate period or that are likely to do so in the short and medium term.

In this volume, contributors look at the short-term challenges that Singapore faces and the policy options open to the nation, and share their insights on Singapore society, politics and economics. Written by an ensemble of authors from a wide spectrum of Singapore society, this volume covers critical issues under the themes such as "One United People", "One Grace Society" and "One Global City".

Co-published by the think-tank, the Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore, this is a useful publication for those with an interest in understanding the governance challenges facing a small, highly globalised economy and nation-state, or those who want a quick feel of the pulse of Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122300>

Governing the Other: Exploring the Discourse of Democracy in a Multiverse of Reason /
Agustin Martin G. Rodriguez

Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2009

234p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789715505970

1. Philippines – Politics and government
2. Philippines – Social conditions
3. Philippines – Economic conditions

\$ 20.00

This book seeks to understand the meaning of just governance in a nation composed of a multiplicity of communities with competing conceptions of the good. The aim of the work is to use a philosophical lens to explore the possibilities of building a democratic Philippine nation-state, given the diversity of our people. In this series of reflections we will dialogue with the work of political scientists, sociologist, and anthropologists who study Philippine political culture, as well as with advocates of Philippine democratic reform, in order to reflect on their praxis and experience ... [and] hope to articulate the principle of governance that may bind us as a people with a shared will for the common good.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122282>

Indian Nuclear Deterrence : Its Evolution, Development and Implications for South Asian
Security / Zafar Iqbal Cheema

Karachi : Oxford University Press, 2010

Xxiv, 609p.

Includes Index

978-0-19-597903-9

\$ 49.50

The significance of this study is that it establishes the fallacy of the conventional perspectives on Indian Nuclear deterrence.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122397>

The Culture of Power and Governance of Pakistan 1947-2008 / Ilhan Niaz
Karachi : Oxford University Press, 2010
Xiv, 320p.

Includes Index
978-0-19-547731-3
\$ 35.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122398>

Facing the Musharraf Dictatorship : An Activist Narrative / Farooq Tariq ; (Ed) Merrilyn
Treasure

Lahore : Good Books, 2009
310p.

\$ 30.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120466>

Estranged Neighbours : India-Pakistan 1947-2010 / K.M. Arif

Islamabad : Dost Publications, 2010
Xi, 344p.

978-969-496-382-2

\$ 30.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122399>

Criss-Cross Times : Selected Writings about Conflict and Confluence, 2001-2009 / Javed
Jabbar

Karachi : Royal Book Company, 2010
Xxi, 475p.

978-969-407-376-7

\$ 30.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122400>

The Voice of the People : Public Opinion in Pakistan 2007-2009 / (Ed) Ijaz Shafi Gilani

Karachi : Oxford University Press, 2010
Xvii, 222p.

Includes Index
978-0-19-547510-4

\$ 30.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122401>

Between Democracy and Nation : Gender and Militarisation in Kashmir / Seema Kazi

Karachi : Oxford University Press, 2010
Xxxiii, 199p.

Includes Index
978-0-19-547835-8

Originally Published in India by Women Unlimited in 2009

\$ 20.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122402>

Zimbabwe's Exodus / Jonathan Crush, Daniel Tevera

Cape Town, South Africa : IDSA, 2010
432p.; 244 x 170 mm.

ISBN 9781920409227

\$ 41.75

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122765>

South Africa and Contemporary Counterinsurgency / Roots, Practices, Prospects

Cape Town, South Africa : UCT Press, 2010

288p.;

ISBN 9781919895338

\$ 47.50

Since the events of 11 September 2001, insurgency - an organised movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government, the pursuance of specific political objectives or the control of a specific territory through the use of subversion and armed conflict - has moved into academic focus once again, and insurgency and terrorism now top the international security agenda.

Although the demise of conventional (typically interstate) warfare has been considerably exaggerated in recent years, there is no question that low-intensity, unconventional insurgencies have become the dominant form of conflict, and seem likely to remain so for some time. This book is itself recognition of that reality.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122766>

The Evil That Men Do: The Crimes of Rizal & Aguinaldo The Reason of the Intellectuals & Philippines Culture of Corruption: A Sociological, Historical, and Philosophical Investigation / Domingo Castro de Guzman

Philippines: (s.n.), 2010

124p. ; 22cm.

\$ 20.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122794>

Critical Times / Joel C. Paredes

Quezon City: People & Advocacy, 2010

300p. ; 22cm.

ISBN-13: 9789719484905

\$ 15.00

This is an account of what had transpired from the rise of the first Aquino administration to the birth of yet another Aquino regime, and everything that had happened in between.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122795>

Discourses on Cordillera Autonomy / Athena Lydia Casambre

Baguio City: Cordillera Studies Center, University of the Philippines Baguio, 2010

108p. ; 23cm.

\$ 15.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122796>

A Nation of Zombies: Powerless Grass Roots, Clueless elite, and the Cycle of Corruption in the Philippines / Manuel E. Valdehuesa Jr

Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines: Capitol University Press, 2009

x. 119p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789710507078

1. Political culture – Philippines
2. Philippines – Politics and government

3. Political corruption – Philippines
4. Political participation – Philippines
5. Philippines – Social conditions

\$ 20.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122797>

Another Ending Another Beginning: Recapturing our Nation's Destiny / Fidel V Ramos
Philippines: (s.n.), 2010

x. 228p. ; 22cm.

Bulletin of FVR "Sermons" – Vol.V / Fidel V. Ramos

\$ 25.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122798>

Presidentiables and Emerging Upheavals / Homobono A. Adaza

Philippines: Alliance for Democratic Action, 2010

iv. 152p. ; 24cm.

Includes index

\$ 35.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122799>

Singapore Version 2.0: Alternative Proposals for a Better Singapore / Gerald Giam

Singapore: Gerald Giam, 2010

ISBN-13: 9789810852740

1. Giam, Gerald, 1977- - Blogs
2. Giam, Gerald, 1977- - Political and social views
3. Singapore – Politics and government – 21st century
4. Singapore – Social conditions – 21st century

\$ 20.00

Singapore version 2.0 is a comprehensive take on the important public issues of the day. Written with heartfelt honesty and candour, it examines and offers refreshing perspectives on the issues that affect Singaporeans. Author Gerald Giam also relates his personal journey from being a civil servant to a blogger and political party activist. This book promises to be an important contribution to the burgeoning public discourse in Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123066>

Asia Alone: The Dangerous Post-Crisis Divide from America / Simon S. C. Tay

Singapore: John Wiley & Sons (Asia) Pte. Ltd., 2010

xvi. 206p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9780470825822

\$ 32.00

Asia divided from America. This is something many hope will not happen. Some deny it is happening at all. But such a division is increasingly probable. In this lucidly written and thought-provoking book, author Simon Tay highlights the accelerating trends that point to Asia increasingly forging its own path, without America. He also describes the fundamental changes and new policy directions required to avoid this outcome and move the relationship forward.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123067>

Democracy under Stress : Civil-Military Relations in South and Southeast Asia / Paul Chambers and Aurel Croissant (Eds)

Bangkok : Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS), 2010

X, 223p.

978-616-551-119-3

\$ 25.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123036>

Siam and the League of Nations : Modernisation, Sovereignty and Multilateral Diplomacy, 1920-1940 / Stefan Hell

Bangkok : River Books, 2010

284p.

22 b/w Photographs

978-974-9863-89-3

\$ 25.00

The fight against human trafficking, improvements in public health, or combating the international drug trade – these are some of the most pressing problems Thailand and the world are facing today. Remarkably, these topics were already high on the international political agenda over 80 years ago during colonial times, when the League of Nations, the United Nations' predecessor, was created.

This first in-depth study of Thai foreign relations in well over a decade traces how these and other policy areas brought Siam in contact with the League of Nations, after the kingdom had signed the Treaty of Versailles and became an original member of this first global body. Based on never before consulted primary sources in Thailand and Europe, the study unfolds the story of a unique relationship between the only independent country in Southeast Asia and the League during the inter-war period of 1920-1940.

The book highlights both the importance of the League for the modernisation of Siam and the shaping of its foreign policies, as well as the intriguing role Siam played on the world stage in the early development of the multilateral political system we live in today.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123324>

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