Recent Politics and Current Affairs - December 2016

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Border Twists and Burma Trajectories: Perceptions, Reforms, and Adaptations, a multi-disciplinary collection of new scholarly works / (Ed) Samak Kosem (Foreword) Magnus Fiskejo

Center for ASEAN Studies, Thailand 2016

xviii, 356p. 9786163980830 \$ 30.00 / PB 450 gm.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=234595

The Politics of (No) Elections in Thailand: Lessons from the 2011 General election / (Ed) Eugenie Merieau

White Lotus Co., Ltd, Bangkok 2016

xii, 268p.

9789747534245

\$ 23.00 / PB

376 gm.

The book was borne out of the idea that the 2011 election represents a paradigm shift in the history of Thai electoral politics. Data collected by King Prajadhipok's Institute before and after the 2011 election, mostly through face-to-face interviews, came to substantiate this claim. The data paints a picture of a wellinformed and mature Thai electorate in all parts of the kingdom. Contrary to the conclusions drawn by some earlier research, the data here shows that the most knowledgeable and most informed of all voters in Thailand are northeastern people, outperforming voters in Bangkok in their knowledge of the candidates and the issues by a signifi cant margin. In other words, the scholars in this book argue against the traditional anti-election discourse, which assumes alleged ignorance on the part of Thai voters (especially in the Northeast) and compares provincial members of Parliament to wild animals. Yet such discourse is still vivid today. It even provided the rationale for the blocking of the 2014 general election under the motto "Reform before Elections"—and then paved the way for the May 22 military coup. The 2011 general election represents the apex of the Thai democratization process so far. As a signal of possible democratic consolidation, it prompted a renewal of authoritarianism in the form of a return of the military to the political stage, which is likely to have long-lasting eff ects on the overall process of democratization in Thailand.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=233863

Voice of Conscience. / Manasseh Azure Awuni Manasseh Azure Awuni, Ghana 2016 268p. 9789988237998 \$ 25.00 / PB 368 gm.

This is a selection of powerful articles published by Manasseh Azure Awuni between 2009 and 2014. The articles cover politics, anti-corruption, obituaries as well as a mixed basket of important national issues

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235254

Managing Chieftaincy and Ethnic Conflicts in Ghana / (Eds) Steve Tonah & Alhassan Sulemana Anamzoya

Woeli Publishing Services, Accra New Town, Ghana 2016

xii, 294p.

9789988231613

\$ 35.00 / PB

488 gm.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235255

Positioning Ghana: Challenges and Innovations / Nana Araba Apt (Ed)

IFRA Nigeria, Ibadan 2015

xvi, 420p.

Includes Index

9789789210923

\$ 55.00 / PB

728 gm.

This book presents ideas from scholars, public officers and human development activists about strategies needed to place Ghana's development agenda on a higher pedestal and to compete globally on all fronts.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235256

2013 – State of the Union Report : Ghana : Study to Audit and Monitor Compliance and Implementation of Protocols, Conventions and Decisions of the African Union Member States / Kwame A. Ninsin (Ed)

Adwinsa Publications (Gh) Ltd (for iDEG), Accra 2014

x, 86p.

Includes Bibliography

9789964630999

\$ 40.00 / PB

442 gm.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235257

A Survey on Citizen Participation in Local Governance / P.N.K. Aborampah Mensah (et al.)

The Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana 2015

vi, 78p.

9789988614522.

\$ 25.00 / PB

316 gm.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235259

Ghana's District League Table 2015 Report: Strengthening social Accountability for National Development /

Unicef & CDD-Ghana, Ghana 2015

iv. 18p.

Includes Fact Sheet: Ghana's District League Table 2015

\$ 8.00 / PB 112 gm.

I Am Aware Bulletin : Education Sector : Focus on Sene East : Public Basic Schools with Toilets (SWTs), Volume. 1 No. 1 May 2016 /

The Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana 2016

4p.

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8p.

ISSN 0855-4005

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32 gm.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235266

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The Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana 2015

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ISSN: 0855-4005

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ISSN:0855-4005.

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32 gm.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=223759

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What is the future of UMNO? Is UMNO's 70th year, in fact, the beginning of the end?

The contributors in this collection study developments in Malaysia's dominant party, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), on the anniversary of its 70th year. The answers to its future lies in part with a better understanding of its past. Four international academics analyse the contemporary history of UMNO, with a particular focus on changes in the last two decades. They draw attention to issues of party identity, leadership, membership, governance, institutional change, party financing, internal divisions and its relations with different communities and the public at large. Not only does this book fill an important gap in the scholarly research on UMNO, this book offers different perspectives on the party's contemporary challenges.

The contributors in this collection include prominent and established scholars studying Malaysian politics. They are all long-time observers of UMNO and each of the essays builds on their fieldwork and earlier scholarship. John Funston expands upon his seminal work on Malay politics, Malay Politics in Malaysia: A Study of UMNO and PAS. Clive Kessler draws from his rich anthropological work on Kelantanese and Malay society, as well as decades of analysis on Malaysian politics in his analysis of UMNO's changing political identity. Leading political scientist and political commentator James Chin focuses on the changing perspectives on UMNO amongst the Malaysian Chinese, whilst Bridget Welsh draws from her fieldwork on elections and local party dynamics to examine how UMNO has struggled with reform, crises and an erosion of its political legitimacy.

To broaden the study, the book turns to a former insider to reflect upon UMNO. The foreword is written by former Deputy Minister of Higher Education and UMNO Supreme Council Member Saifuddin Abdullah. He left UMNO in October 2015 and has joined the opposition.

The question of UMNO's future goes to the heart of Malaysia's future. Having governed Malaysia for nearly six decades, whether (and how) UMNO can tackle reasons for the decay in its public standing will shape the path ahead for all Malaysians. Views of the party are deeply polarized. Many have given up on UMNO altogether. With its party leader, UMNO President, and Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak embroiled in scandals, involving billions of ringgit, multiple legal jurisdictions and unanswered concerns about the use of funds and potential abuses of power, UMNO is facing one of the most serious crises in the party's history. UMNO is indeed at a crossroads. This book aims to contribute to understanding, broaden public debate and stimulate further research on arguably Malaysia's most important political institution.

Tomorrow's Nation : The Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Lesson Learnt [LLRC] and the Future of Sri Lanka / (Ed) Sunil Jayasekera

Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo 2012

74p.

9789551655990

\$ 3.00 / PB

56 gm.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235627

Future in Retrospect: China's Diplomatic History Revisited / Edited by: Yaqing Qin (China Foreign Affairs University, China), Zhirui Chen (China Foreign Affairs World Century Publishing Corporation, USA 2016 340p.

9781938134838

\$ 130.00 / HB

What were the new People's Republic of China's policies to the Universal Postal Union in its early years? How did they help China promote its national interests in the world stage? Why did China train Albanian interns in the Cold War? Was it out of "communist fraternity" or was it part of China's concerted public diplomacy efforts? And what role has China's medical assistance to developing countries, especially those in Africa, played in its foreign affairs?

Penned by well-known international relations scholars from China, the eight essays in this volume attempt to answer those questions and more. Based on rich literature, including some newly declassified files from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this volume introduces some of the most interesting and significant, but lesser-known, episodes in the diplomatic history of the People's Republic of China, and tries to shed light on their implications and impact on China's diplomacy.

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International Strategic Relations and China's National Security World at the Crossroads (HB) $\!\!\!/$

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore 2016 372p.

9789813144934 \$ 125.00 / HB

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International Strategic Relations and China's National Security World at the Crossroads (PB) $\ / \$

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore 2016 372p.

9789813148987

\$ 33.50 / PB

The world was standing at the crossroads in 2015 as globalization propelled human beings into an increasingly integrated community of common destiny. In the meantime, the world witnessed the strategic competition among major powers. This annual publication offers views, opinions and predictions on global political and security issues, and China's strategic choices by Chinese scholars. It covers almost all the significant issues that took place in the international security arena in 2015. Besides the relations among major powers, it studies the international community's fight against Islamic State (IS), the strategic situation in the Korean Peninsula, political situation in Myanmar, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear issue, free navigation in the South China Sea, China's Belt and Road Initiative and its grand diplomacy.

This book argues that the strategic competition among major powers is heightening, and smaller countries as well as extremist forces like the IS are seeking strategic space by taking advantage of the conflicts among major powers. The book concludes that to address this major historic challenge in international politics, it is essential that some major powers drop the hostile stance towards each other and enhance partnership to foster international cooperation.

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Ethnicities, Personalities and Politics in the Ethnic Chinese Worlds / Ching-hwang Yen

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore 2016

9789814603010

\$ 165.00 / HB

The rise of the economic power of the ethnic Chinese, known also as overseas Chinese, Chinese overseas or Chinese diaspora, was a late 20th century phenomenon. It was partly the result of the rise of the Four Little Asian Dragons in the 1970s, and was speeded up by the tempo of globalization towards the end of that century. This book explores the ethnic identity and boundary of the Chinese as minority groups in foreign lands, and as sub-groups among the Chinese themselves. It examines prominent personalities that had wielded considerable influence in the ethnic Chinese communities in the economic, social and educational arenas. It also discusses the type of politics that had impacted their relationship with their mother country — China.

Containing 16 papers presented at various international conferences in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan as keynote speeches and research findings which are predominantly unpublished in English, this book provides fresh perspectives and re-interpretations on the issues of ethnicity, leadership and politics in the ethnic Chinese worlds.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236448

Changing State-Society Relations in Contemporary China / (Ed) Wei Shan, Lijun Yang

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore 2016 312p.

9789814618557

\$ 120.00 / HB

This book attempts to provide an overview of social and political changes in Chinese society since the global financial crisis. Rapid economic development has restructured the setup of society and empowered or weakened certain social players. The chapters in this book provide an updated account of a wide range of social changes, including the rise of the middle class and private entrepreneurs, the declining social status of the working class, as well as the resurgence of non-governmental organisations and the growing political mobilisation on the internet. The authors also examine the implications of those changes for state-society relations, governance, democratic prospects, and potentially for the stability of the current political regime.

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Governing Society in Contemporary China / Lijun Yang, Wei Shan

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore 2016 224p.

9789814618588

\$ 110.00 / HB

This book examines how the Chinese state responds to the increasingly diverse civil society and maintains regime stability in a changing society. In recent years, the Chinese leadership has demonstrated great capability of adapting and developing sophisticated mechanisms of social control. The chapters in this book cover a wide range of these mechanisms, including co-opting social forces, managing population and migration, as well as controlling the media, trade unions, the internet, non-governmental organisations, and the cultural industries. The authors also discuss challenges the government is about to face and possible adjustments.

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New Context of Vietnam's National Security Challenges / Nguyen Manh Hung (Series Eds) Ooi Kee Beng & Lee Hock Guan

ISEAS Publishing, Singapore 2016

36p.

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Nationalism in Asia and Europe / Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister, Megha Sarmah & Patrick Rueppel

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ISSN: 0119-5204. \$ 25.00 / PB

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Refugees and Migration in Asia and Europe / Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy, Megha Sarmah & Patrick Rueppel

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156p.

ISSN: 0119-5204. \$ 25.00 / PB 384 gm.

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Countering Daesh Extremism: European and Asian Responses / Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy, Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Megha Sarmah & Patrick Rueppel Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Singapore 2016

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Political Philosophies & Nation-Building in Cameroon : Grounds for Remaking the Postcolony / Aseh Andrew

Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon, Africa 2016

xiv, 190p. Includes Bibliography 9789956763443 \$ 28.00 / PB 264 gm.

This is a comprehensive text on the function of thought in the history and political sociology of Cameroon. The book brings out how the "hidden hand of history" fashions a political thought which, in turn, creates its own history. Instead of Cameroonians making history, history makes Cameroonians. The book shows how political ideas are fashioned in a post-colonial context in which Europeans impose a superordinate arrangement on a people together with its philosophers. "Thinking the nation" in Cameroon on behalf of Europeans, especially after the leaders of the national liberation struggle were all eliminated, European philosophers put in place a "repressive machine" under which Cameroonians were subjected between 1958 and 1990. Repression gave way to a refined form of enslavement – a modernised version of slavery. Cameroonians joined the bandwagon and have been producing and reproducing Western industrial economies while day-dreaming of what they will never become. The whole idea of nation-building in post-colonial Africa is put in question. This book offers students of political studies, sociology, anthropology and history compelling evidence to grapple with questions as to whether Cameroon is a state or a nation and questions of sovereignty and citizenship.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236549

Africa's Best and Worst Presidents: How Neocolonialism and Imperialism Maintained Venal Rules in Africa / (Author) Nkwazi Nkuzi Mhango

Langaa RPCIG,Cameroon,Africa 2016

xxvi, 352p. 9789956764723 \$ 36.00 / PB 546 gm. Africa's Best and Worst Presidents seeks to deconstruct the current superstructure that colonialism created and maintains. It chastises and challenges Africans, academics in the main, to revisit and write a true history of Africa. Written by Africans themselves, such rewritten histories should aim to counter the counterfeit narratives which have proliferated, poisoned and diminished African sense of self and self-confidence. The history centred on African perspectives and experiences should go a long way in our quest to truly unfetter Africa from dependency, desolations and mismanagement. This book calls upon all Africans to stand up fearlessly and tirelessly to take on decadent and despotic regimes that have always held Africa at ransom as they get lessons from the best managers of state affairs on whose feats they must expand. The option to critique, cross-examine and dissect past African presidents and their excesses is aimed at giving the young and frustrated generations of Africans the intellectual resources they need to arm themselves in resolve and pursuit of Africa's emancipation.

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Understanding Trans A Uistan, of Philippings Trans Polations / Mariana A Dumin

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