

Recent Books from Thailand – July 2023

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Economics/Development Studies

Thailand Public Health 2021-2022 : Highlight and Analysis of Thailand's Health Statistics –
21st Edition

Nonthaburi: Alpha Research Co. Ltd., 2023

1v.

9786167526683

1. Public Health - Thailand

\$ 90.00 / HB

1114gm.

ID: 847995

History

Postcards by Edition Laotienne Artistique et Sportive Vientiane 1927 : Paullussen
Cochinchina and Cambodia, Crespin Cambodia, Societe d'Angkor / Diethard Ande
Bangkok: White Lotus Co. Ltd, 2023

vi, 232p. ; illus. in b & w , 210x295mm.

9789748496740

Old Postcard Series, Vol. 9 : Laos, Cochinchina, Cambodia

\$ 46.00 / PB

956gm.

The postcard book Vol. 9 of this series covers four late
photographers/publishers: Edition Laotienne et Sportive, only Lao topics and Paullussen
and Crespin, both with Cochinchina and Cambodian cards

These publishers were active after 1910. The Lao cards were 'modern' having also Lao
captions and were meant to serving also Lao people.

Paullussen produced two series with the same numbers covering many interesting subjects
in Saigon, also photographed by others but at a later date than the pre 1910 cards. One part
covers the visit of Marshall Joffre, a French hero from WWI. Other topics are agriculture
farms run by French settlers of coconut and rubber trees.

Crespin covers partly the same events as Paullussen: the visit of Marshal Joffre. This
volume covers only his Cambodian cards to allow a comparison with Paullussen's cards.

Société d'Angkor produced a 60 card series of only Angkor and that may be nice to compare with the Dieulefils Angkor cards.

Politics

Dynastic Democracy : Political Families in Thailand / Yoshinori Nishizaki

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2023

xxiv, 304p.

Includes Index

9786162152047

\$ 40.00 / PB

444gm.

Since the overthrow of absolute monarchy in 1932, Thailand's political history has conventionally been interpreted as a long series of popular struggles for representative democracy and against authoritarian military rule. Yoshinori Nishizaki argues that this history is better understood as a continual struggle by elite political families for and against "dynastic democracy"—characterized by the transmission of power between members of select ruling families. Thailand has experienced no fewer than twenty two coups over the course of the past century, and Nishizaki shows that family-based contests for power underlie that tumultuous politics.

Drawing extensively on Thai-language primary sources, Nishizaki traces the intricate blood and marriage connections among Thailand's political families. These families fall into two categories: influential commoners who have held parliamentary seats since 1932 and form the core of Thailand's dynastic democracy; and upper-class citizens who are related to the royal family either by kin or by ideological alignment, and who have repeatedly challenged political transitions with coups and constitutional changes, among other manoeuvres. Nishizaki illustrates how a broader democracy in Thailand has been consistently stifled, to the detriment of ordinary citizens. Dynastic Democracy fleshes out a widely acknowledged yet heretofore empirically unsubstantiated facet of Thai political history—that in Thai politics, family matters.

Generals and Geographers : The Twilight of Geopolitics / Hans W. Weigert

Bangkok: White Lotus Co. Ltd, 2023

xxxvi, 312p.

9789748496214

\$ 25.00 / PB

440gm.

Generals and Geographers, The Twilight of Geopolitics is a reprint with new introduction and appendices of two relevant articles

This is the story of geopolitical thought in Germany in the first half of the 20th century - from its late 19th century origins as seemingly a genuine science, through what the author

maintains was its subsequent perversion into a political pseudo-science aimed at facilitating world conquest. It is the story of one of the world's leading geopolitical thinkers of that era, German Professor and former Army General Karl Haushofer, whose ideas reached a worldwide audience in the 1930s and are said to have influenced the military strategies of the Nazi regime, and even of Adolf Hitler himself.

But, it is also the story of the British geopolitical visionary Sir Halford Mackinder, whose 1904 prediction of the coming hegemony in world affairs by a Eurasian "Heartland," centered on a key "Geographical Pivot Zone" in Eastern Europe, inspired and informed Prof. Haushofer's own plans for Germany's future. Ultimately, Prof. Haushofer's insightful advice was rejected by Germany's political leadership, and the country descended on a path which led to defeat in World War II.

By war's end, Prof. Mackinder had significantly modified his own theoretical system, and in subsequent decades his influence appears to have shrunk. But, recent events centering on China's greatly expanding economic and political influence, in particular her vast "One Belt, One Road Initiative" designed to link China and East Asia with Central Asia, India, the Middle East, and Europe, would appear to have renewed attention to Mackinder's original 1904 theory.

Mackinder's vision of an Eastern European "Heartland," at the center of a vast continental system unified through the technology of modern communications and transport, able to influence, and perhaps even to dominate, the states of the periphery which historically had been most prominent - including the powerful maritime states of Europe and America - may be about to be realized.

Who Cares? : COVID-19 Social Protection Response in Southeast Asia / (Ed) Rosalia Sciortino

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2023
xxiv, 352p.

Includes Index
9786162151996
\$ 40.00 / PB
506gm.
ID: 850089

Who Cares? This book presents research findings on the social protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic in six Southeast Asian countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. It comprises a regional overview and country-specific chapters, each of which narrates the unfolding of the pandemic, focusing on the economic impacts on different demographics and the social welfare programs that addressed those impacts. The details of each program reveal structurally entrenched limitations and biases, including privileges for civil servants and formal sector employees; inadequate or non-existent allowances for informal workers and migrants, or those considered outside the labor market; and the greater susceptibility to economic detriment among women and marginalized groups. Ultimately, the work highlights the paradox that the most socially deprived are disproportionately affected by crises such as the pandemic, yet they are also the least socially protected. As the title asks, "Who Cares?" about redressing this injustice.

Upgrading Informal Settlements : Experiences from Asia / Yap Kioe Sheng

Bangkok: White Lotus Co. Ltd, 2023

viii, 228p.

Includes Index

9789083256269

\$ 40.00 / PB

314gm.

Millions of people in cities of developing countries live in informal settlements (often called slums), lacking access to basic infrastructure and facing a permanent threat of eviction. An eviction results not only in the loss of a home, but separates people from their livelihood, community and essential socioeconomic networks. Rather than evict people, urban authorities should upgrade informal settlements, as it allows the residents to stay onsite and builds on investments they have already made in their houses and the settlement. Upgrading involves the improvement of infrastructure and enhancement of land tenure security which can motivate the residents to invest in the improvement of their homes. It also signals recognition of the settlement and its population by the authorities as integral parts of the city.

Besides benefits (such as better health and greater self-confidence), upgrading has its risks (such as indebtedness and gentrification). It requires active participation by the people in planning and decision making to ensure that the project matches their conditions, needs and priorities. Participation can empower the community to negotiate with the authorities for other entitlements. Upgrading does not produce perfect settlements, but can be an important first step in a long journey of development.
