It is these kinds of details, combined with the plates illustrating sack-sewers in Manado, the capital of North Sulawesi in Indonesia, and with figures on how to break down the price of a shirt and numbers of refugees, and tables on human tragedies in Thailand, which make this book very special. There have been few attempts in the literature which critique macroeconomic views of development and they usually deal with local situations. Rigg goes against the grain: development and modernization in themselves are not to blame; modernization, development and the views associated with these in Southeast Asia are often problematic and rarely easy to get to grips with. Ultimately, the struggles of the people at the bottom of society should not be dismissed as a doomed and failed effort. They also play a part. This book should be read by any scholar or student seeking to understand these complex processes of political, social and economic change in Southeast Asia.

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This monograph is the outcome of the Third Meeting of the CSCAP's (the Council for Security Co-operation in the Asia-Pacific's) Maritime Co-operation Working Group held in Bangkok on 30 May–1 June 1997, where papers were presented and a discussion held on the theme of “Regional Ocean Management and Security”. The first section of the monograph is a compilation of national perspectives and arrangements for maritime management by Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The second section discusses regional arrangements for co-operative maritime management in Southeast Asia, the South Pacific, the South China Sea, the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas, and the Caribbean. The concluding section of the monograph provides a summary report of the third meeting, which includes CSCAP Memorandum No 4, on Guidelines for Regional Co-operation.

Authorities on the subject, from eleven countries, contributed papers on national perspectives and arrangements for maritime management. The writers ranged from academics to policy-makers. Given that the
majority of the contributors are also assisting their respective government’s decision-making process, their work reflects their countries’ particular maritime interests and areas of concern.

There is an obvious difference in methodology and emphasis in the various papers. For instance, Anthony Bergin’s paper is detailed and scholarly in approach, covering several aspects of Australia’s conception of maritime management. On the other hand, the paper by Sang Don Lee (Professor of Law at Chung-Ang University and a member of the Executive Committee of the SLOC-Study Group of Korea) looks largely at the history of maritime administration in the Republic of Korea and the establishment of the MOMAF (Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries).

Given the differences in the size of the countries examined, the maritime area each country has to manage, the areas their maritime interests are located in, and the unique problems and issues each maritime area has to address, quite naturally each author has adopted a different approach and focus. Readers of this monograph will be able to understand and get a feel of the variety of problems faced in the larger East Asian region, as well as an understanding of why neighbouring countries might not be able to fully comprehend one another’s maritime problems.

From an academic perspective, the majority of the papers failed to openly state and discuss cross-border management issues, or link national solutions and proposals to issues. However, solutions and proposals to meet cross-border issues were discussed to some extent in the majority of the papers. The contributors therefore left it to the reader to make the link between issues and the solutions. Nonetheless, there were a number of well-written pieces. One of these is B.A. Hamzah’s paper on Malaysia, which highlights the national arrangements made to realize Malaysia’s aspirations to become a “fully fledged maritime nation”. Hamzah identifies the weaknesses in the approaches of the past, and what the new solutions might be able to solve in advancing Malaysia’s maritime interests. His paper also highlights specific policies undertaken by the Malaysian Government in the 1990s to meet national goals.

The second section of the monograph offers regional insights into the arrangements for co-operation in maritime management. Francis Lai provides a historical approach in the discussion of Southeast Asia, where the focus is largely on the work of the Southeast Asian Programme in Ocean Law Policy and Management (SEAPOL), which is a brainchild of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) III. Grant Hewison’s paper on the South Pacific examines a host of institutional arrangements put in place to deal with maritime issues in
The South Pacific region, and the shortcomings of these institutions. Ian Townsend-Gault’s discussion on the South China Sea helps with an understanding of the possibility and need for co-operation in a highly contentious area. The paper by Glen Hearns on the Baltic and Mediterranean seas, and that by Joly Eichner and Stanley Weeks on the Caribbean, provide a better perspective of regional maritime problems in the larger East Asian region. Their studies illustrate that the problems faced in East Asia are not entirely unique to the region, and that some of the solutions derived outside the region could be adapted to the situation in East Asia.

The summary report of the Third Meeting of the CSCAP’s Maritime Co-operation Working Group is prominently featured in the conclusion. The findings and discussions at the meeting have prompted the introduction of the concept of “Ocean Management” as opposed to “Ocean Governance” as the correct terminology to describe the management of oceans and seas. It is argued that seas cannot be governed as such, and that “sea command” in the classical strategic sense has no place in the contemporary world. The findings of the meeting also indicate that ocean management and regional security are closely interlinked, particularly in the Asia-Pacific where there are many contentious maritime problems. The guidelines (CSCAP Memorandum No 4) worked out at the meeting for regional maritime co-operation in the larger East Asian region highlight the fundamentals that the region has to achieve in order to ensure maritime peace.

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