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The Historical Construction of Southeast Asian Studies

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The Historical Construction of Southeast Asian Studies

Korea and Beyond

EDITED BY
PARK SEUNG WOO
VICTOR T. KING



INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

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FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to write the Foreword for *The Historical Construction of Southeast Asian Studies: Korea and Beyond*. This book will indeed make its historical mark as the first edited volume for whose publication Korean scholars have taken the initiative and which addresses general issues in the development of Southeast Asian Studies. Within the past two decades the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) has published three books whose contributors were mainly Korean, but the main subject of which was Korea, especially bilateral relations with Southeast Asia, ASEAN, or individual countries in the region. With this particular publication, I expect and hope that Southeast Asianists from Korea will assume a more active role in, and make greater contributions to, the global community of Southeast Asian Studies.

This edited volume is the result of an international conference organized by the Institute for East Asian Studies at Sogang University (SIEAS) on 19–20 March 2010. I have witnessed and appreciated the tremendous efforts and infinite time contributed by the co-editors Professors Park Seung Woo and Victor T. King, to negotiate with the publisher, edit and copy-edit the manuscripts, communicate with the authors, and write the introduction. I should also mention the patience and sacrifice of the ten authors who have waited a longer than usual time for publication and thus helped SIEAS and Southeast Asian Studies in Korea come of age and enter the international stage.

Since the mid-2000s, SIEAS has mobilized various resources and initiated various programmes to promote Southeast Asian Studies in Korea. Particularly with the ten-year grants from the National Research Foundation of Korea, in 2008 SIEAS embarked on a comprehensive research and educational project under the banner of *Southeast Asia as an Open Regional System: A New Paradigm for Communicating with the Globe and Reaching Out to*

the Public. Among its specific programmes, SIEAS organizes international conferences every year, one for our research clusters and the other for our international journal *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia*. We offer these conferences as a new venue for academic discourse on a global level. I hope that this edited volume will serve as an important stepping stone towards our global initiatives.

Shin Yoon Hwan
Director of the Institute for East Asian Studies
Sogang University
Seoul, Korea

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Park Seung Woo and Victor T. King
Daegu, Korea and Brunei Darussalam
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ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

CHOI Horim is HK Assistant Professor of the Institute for East Asian Studies, Sogang University in Korea. He received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the Seoul National University in 2003. His main scope of research is Vietnamese ritual tradition, cultural policy, migration, and tourism. His recent works include *Museums in Southeast Asia: Cultural Politics of National Representation and Memory* (2011); *Southeast Asia and the World Beyond: From the Perspectives of Tradition, Colonialism, and Modernity* (2011); “Cultural Politics of Communal Festivals in Ha Noi” (2010); “Vietnamese Labor Migration to South Korea: Government Policies, Social Capital, Labor Exporting Agencies, and Chain Migration” (2010); “Ethnography of Korean Veterans’ Battlefield Travel in Vietnam: ‘Wol-nam War’, Tourism, and Politics of Memory” (2010); “Vietnam War Memory and Tourism: Embodied History and Contested Authenticity” (2009); and “Ritual Revitalization and Nativist Ideology in Hanoi”, in *Modernity and Re-Enchantment: Religion in Post-Revolutionary Vietnam*, edited by Philip Taylor (2007).

Freek COLOMBIJN graduated in cultural anthropology and history at Leiden University, the Netherlands, and obtained his Ph.D. degree also at Leiden University. He is currently Associate Professor at VU University Amsterdam. His research usually focuses on Indonesia. He has published *Under Construction: The Politics of Urban Space and Housing During the Decolonization of Indonesia, 1930–1960* (2010) and various articles on environmental history, communal violence, the social impact of new roads, pre-colonial state formation, football, and urban symbolism; he also co-edited *Urban Ethnic Encounters: The Spatial Consequences* (with Aygen Erdentug, 2002); *Roots of Violence in Indonesia: Contemporary Violence in Historical Perspective* (with J. Thomas Lindblad, 2002); and *The History of*

the Indonesian City Before and After Independence (with Martine Barwegen et al., 2005). He is currently undertaking research on the perception of environmental problems, middle class consumption patterns and garbage collection by scavengers in Indonesian cities.

James J. FOX, who was previously Director of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University, is now an Emeritus Professor based in the University's Resource Management in Asia Pacific Program. He has been doing research in Indonesia, particularly in the Timor area and on Java, since 1965. Over this period he has published widely on topics ranging from language and history to social organization and the environment. He has also been involved in a good deal of policy research and has served as the founding Director of the Korea Institute at the ANU.

Ariel HERYANTO is Associate Professor of Indonesian Studies and Head of Southeast Asia Centre, The School of Culture, History and Language, The Australian National University. He is the author of *State Terrorism And Political Identity In Indonesia: Fatally Belonging* (2007), editor of *Popular Culture in Indonesia: Fluid Identities in Post-Authoritarian Politics* (2008), and co-editor of *Pop Culture Formations Across East Asia* (2010). His areas of interest include everyday politics of identity and representation, media and cultural studies, as well as post-colonialism.

Victor T. KING is Emeritus Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Leeds, UK and former Executive Director of the White Rose East Asia Centre, which comprises a research partnership between the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield and East Asian Studies in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Leeds. He is currently Eminent Visiting Professor at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He is a former Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom and the British Academy Committee for Southeast Asian Studies. He has published extensively on the sociology and anthropology of Southeast Asia, and most recently has published *The Sociology of Southeast Asia: Transformations in a Developing Region* (2011, reprint); *The Modern Anthropology of Southeast Asia: An Introduction* (with W.D. Wilder 2006, reprint); and with Michael Hitchcock and Michael Parnwell he has co-edited *Tourism in Southeast Asia: Challenges and New Directions* (2009) and *Heritage Tourism in Southeast Asia* (2010).

LEE Sang Kook is Assistant Professor at the Institute for East Asian Studies at Sogang University (SIEAS), Korea. He obtained his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the National University of Singapore. Before joining SIEAS in 2009, he had worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Korean government as an area specialist in Southeast Asian affairs. He has done scholarly research on the issues of refugees, migration, and the border with a special focus on the Thailand-Myanmar borderland. He has coedited *Managing Transnational Flows in East Asia* (with Shirlena Huang and Mike Hayes, 2012) and a special issue of *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* entitled “Transnational Migration in East Asia” (with Shirlena Huang and Mike Hayes, 2012). His journal articles include “Scattered but Connected: Karen Refugees’ Networking in and beyond the Thailand-Burma Borderland” (2012) and “Borderland Dynamics in Mae Sot, Thailand and the Pursuit of Bangkok Dream and Resettlement” (2011).

PARK Sa-Myung is Professor of Political Science at Kangwon National University in Korea, Chairman of the Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (KISEAS), and former President of the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS). After he received his Ph.D. in Political Science from State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo in 1988, he taught at Liaoning University, China in 1994–95 and studied at Columbia University, USA in 2001–02. He is particularly interested in socio-economic change, political development, and regional integration in East Asia encompassing Northeast and Southeast Asia. His recent publications include *A New Search for East Asia: Beyond Battlefields, Toward Marketplaces and Public Spaces* (2006) and other co-authored ones such as *Political Leadership for Crisis Management* (2007), *East Asian Community and Korea’s Tomorrow* (2008), *In Search of East Asian Community* (2009), and *Southeast Asian Perceptions of Korea* (2010).

PARK Seung Woo is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Multicultural Education and Research Institute at Yeungnam University in Korea. He is currently serving as President of the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS) and is a member of the Board of Trustees at the Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (KISEAS). Professor Park received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Georgia in 1991. He has written extensively on Southeast Asia and on East Asian regionalism. His recent works include *East Asian Community and Korea’s Tomorrow* (with Shin Yoon Hwan et al., 2008); *States of Democracy: Oligarchic Democracies*

and Asian Democratization (with Cho Hee Yeon et al., 2008); *The Dynamic Transformation of Socio-Economic Inequality in the Asian Democratization* (2009); *Transnational Issues and Regional Governance in Southeast Asia* (with Yoon Jinpyo et al., 2010); and “Review of the Discourses on East Asian Community” (2011).

SONG Seung-Won is Assistant Professor at the Department of Malay-Indonesian Interpretation and Translation at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea. She acquired her Ph.D. from the Department of History at Ohio University, USA in 2008. She has written extensively on Indonesian contemporary political history and regionalism. Her recent works include *Museums in Southeast Asia* (with Choi Horim et al., 2011); *Southeast Asia and the World Beyond: From the Perspectives of Tradition, Colonialism, and Modernity* (with Kang Hee Jung et al., 2011); “An Analysis of the Nationalist History of Aceh: Based on the Writings of Yunus Djamil, Ali Hasjmy, and Hasan di Tiro” (2010); and “Indonesia’s State Ideology and Its Interpretations across Orders: Based on the Analysis of Citizenship Education” (2010).

YU Insun is teaching Southeast Asian History at Sookmyung Women’s University in Seoul. He is a former Professor of Southeast Asian History at Seoul National University. Prof. Yu earned his Ph.D. in Southeast Asian history at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, USA, in 1978. He has published extensively on Vietnamese history and most recently has published *Lê Văn Hưu and Ngô Sĩ Liên: A Comparison of Their Perception of Vietnamese History* (2006); *Vietnam-China Relations in the 19th Century: Myth and Reality of the Tributary System* (2009), and *The 1979 Sino-Vietnamese War from the Perspective of Historical Relations between the Two Countries* (2011). He is now working on the village regulations (*huong ước*), old and new, in Vietnam.