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Editors' Note

v

Articles

Muay Thai: Inventing Tradition for a National Symbol Peter Vail 509

Seditious State-Making in the Mekong Borderlands:
The Shan Rebellion of 1902–1904 Andrew Walker 554

The Buddha's Precepts on Respecting Other Races and
Religions? Thinking about the Relationship of Ethnicity
and Theravada Buddhism Thomas Borchert 591

Beyond "Chinese Diaspora" and "Islamic Ummah":
Various Transnational Connections and Local
Negotiations of Chinese Muslim Identities in Indonesia Hew Wai Weng 627

Conversion to Ahmadiyya in Indonesia: Winning
Hearts through Ethical and Spiritual Appeals Ahmad Najib
Burhani 657

Sayagyi and Sage: Hla Myint, Myanmar's "Classical"
Economist Sean Turnell 691

Research Note

Being *khon phi* as a Form of Resistance among Thai
Migrant Workers in Korea Suriya Smutkupt 721

SOJOURN Symposium

A History of the Vietnamese	Bruce M. Lockhart, 738 Haydon Cherry, and Keith W. Taylor
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Book Reviews

<i>Finding Their Voice: Northeastern Villagers and the Thai State</i> , by Charles Keyes.	Nicholas Tapp	754
<i>Ties that Bind: Cultural Identity, Class, and Law in Vietnam's Labor Resistance</i> , by Tran Ngoc Angie.	Simon Clarke	758
<i>Vietnamese-Chinese Relationships at the Borderlands: Trade, Tourism and Cultural Politics</i> , by Yuk Wah Chan.	Guanie Lim	760
<i>Squatters into Citizens: The 1961 Bukit Ho Swee Fire and the Making of Modern Singapore</i> , by Lo Kah Seng.	Ho Chi Tim	763
<i>The Evolution of a Muslim Democrat: The Life of Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim</i> , by Charles Allers.	Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid	766
<i>Adat and Indigeneity in Indonesia: Culture and Entitlements between Heteronomy and Self-Ascription</i> , edited by Brigitta Hauser-Schäublin.	Adam Tyson	769
<i>Radical Traditions: Reimagining Culture in Balinese Contemporary Music</i> , by Andrew McGraw.	David Harnish	773
<i>The Story of Việt Nam: From Prehistory to the Present</i> , by Shelton Woods.	Mei Feng Mok	776

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Editors' Note

The articles in this issue of *SOJOURN* address several of the journal's central concerns: nationalism, the nature of borders and borderlands in Southeast Asia, the effects of colonialism on the region, religious dynamics, labour and labour migration, intellectual history, and Southeast Asians' localization of extra-regional influences.

Peter Vail's opening article, on the invention of tradition in Muay Thai and on efforts to link the sport with a royalist interpretation of Thailand's national history, will be required reading for women and men in gyms around the globe. It succeeds in capturing with great vividness the relationship between royalist myth-making and the internationalization of things "Thai". Vail's success in marrying his command of sources — *and* his immersion in the world of contemporary Thai pugilism — to anthropological paradigms epitomizes the scholarly goals of this journal.

Andrew Walker returns to territory — both geographical and thematic — treated in his 1999 book *The Legend of the Golden Boat* to offer a fresh analysis of the "Shan Rebellion" against Bangkok in the first years of the twentieth century. He draws on French archival materials to mount an argument that colonial-era state-making and the attendant demarcation of borders permitted "seditious" elements to mobilize extant political alliances and foment rebellion in ways whose effectiveness previous scholarship has not recognized. While historical in focus, Walker's article is sure to stimulate new understandings of and research on borderlands and their inhabitants.

The contributions of Thomas Borchert on conceptualizations of the relationship between ethnicity and Theravada Buddhism in Singapore, Yunnan and Thailand; of Hew Wai Weng on transnationalism and identity formation among Chinese Muslims in Indonesia; and of Ahmad Najib Burhani on the nature of the appeal of Qadiani Ahmadiyya in that same country each speak directly to aspects of

religious change in contemporary Southeast Asia. We are particularly proud to publish these three articles, as the first of them examines Singapore in much-needed comparative perspective and the second and third illustrate the commitment of *SOJOURN* to disseminating new scholarship on Indonesian Islam.

Sean Turnell's consideration of the ideas of the legendary Myanmar economist Hla Myint (b. 1920) in the context of his relationship with his native country and of developments there over many decades calls well-deserved attention to one of the most influential Southeast Asian thinkers of our times. And Suriya Smutkupt's research note on the experiences of an unnamed Thai woman working illegally in an industrial centre in the Republic of Korea offers a highly personal account of a very different kind of Southeast Asian life.

This issue of the journal also includes the second instalment of *SOJOURN* Symposium, in which Bruce Lockhart and Haydon Cherry review Keith Taylor's monumental and iconoclastic new *History of the Vietnamese*. Their reviews and Taylor's response offer a provocative and spirited discussion both of interpretations of Vietnam's past and of historiographic vision. The vision that, as the reviews make clear, Taylor uses his book to advance has direct relevance to students of what we call "Southeast Asia" and its constituent parts, no matter what their academic discipline.

Terence Chong
Michael Montesano

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- Taylor, Keith W. *A History of the Vietnamese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
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