

BOOK REVIEWS

***Conflict Resolution in Kampuchea: Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Indochina.* Edited by Donald Hugh McMillen. Brisbane: Centre for the Study of Australia-Asia Relations, Griffith University, August 1989. 151 pp.**

The roller-coaster road of peace-making in Cambodia received much attention in the international media in 1989. When the Cambodian peace talks opened in Paris in July of that year, despite the difficult issues involved, there was a fair amount of hope for peace in Cambodia which has been at war since 1970 when Prince Norodom Sihanouk was removed from power. The failure of the talks demonstrated that peace in Cambodia was still far off because of the divergent views among the Khmer factions.

With the background of the failure of the Cambodian peace talks in Paris, this monograph is of immense value in understanding the complex issues involved in the Cambodian peace-making process and in explaining why peace in Cambodia has been so elusive. This volume (published at the same time the Paris talks ended in failure in August 1989) identifies the issues in dispute among the Khmer factions and suggests ways and means of bringing peace to Cambodia. The monograph is a collection of three papers presented at the plenary sessions of the Third International Conference on Indochina (funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) which met at Kooralbyn, Australia, from 24 to 28 January 1989. Written by Nayan Chanda (a correspondent with the *Far Eastern Economic Review*), Dr Carlyle Thayer (of the Australian Defence Forces Academy), and Dr Noordin Sopiee (of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia), the three keynote papers deal with

essential issues which must be addressed in connection with finding peace in Cambodia:

- national reconciliation among the Khmer factions;
- a monitoring of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Cambodian soil and a neutralization of that country; and
- the question of the exercise of the right of self-determination by the Cambodian people.

Remarkably, the three authors and the discussants agree on a number of vital points concerning peace in Cambodia. These are: 1) that Cambodia should become an independent, sovereign, neutral and non-aligned nation; 2) that it should not pose a threat to any of its neighbours; 3) that the Khmer Rouge must not be allowed to return to exclusive power in Phnom Penh; 4) that a government of national conciliation should be formed perhaps with Prince Sihanouk as its head; and 5) that there should be some sort of international guarantee of the Cambodian peace agreements. However, as the negotiations in Paris demonstrated, the Khmer factions found it impossible to agree on the nature of a government of national reconciliation. While the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) argued for a quadrapartite government, the Phnom Penh regime stood for a council of national reconciliation responsible for holding elections in Cambodia.

Although the conference provided a useful forum to foster constructive dialogue and interaction among the participants, it was not aimed at solving the Cambodian problem. Nor was it directed towards making decisions for various groups/governments involved in the Cambodian peace talks. However, as the working papers and discussants' comments in this book suggest, the participants were successful in bringing out constructive and useful ideas about peace-making in Cambodia. This monograph is a must for those who are anxiously watching the process of peace-making in Cambodia.

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Singapour 1959–1987. Genese d'un nouveau pays industriel [Singapore 1959–1987. Origins of a newly developed country]. By Jean-Louis Margolin. Paris: Editions L'Harmattan, 1989. 315 pp.

The author starts from the assumption that “the case” of Singapore is right in the centre of today's international controversies on the future of the Third World: “For the advocates of (economic) liberalism it is a model, perhaps the model”. In his conclusion, the author concedes that