

Green Revolution on rural Java, a subject to which the author has made only passing reference.

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Confrontation or Coexistence: The Future of ASEAN-Vietnam Relations. Edited by William S. Turley. Bangkok: Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, 1985. 187pp.

These days most conflicts seem to drag on and the one in Kampuchea is no exception. While it has certainly helped to produce a distinct political polarization within Southeast Asia between the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Indochinese states, it has also created a stalemate which seems oddly disturbing. The crisis in Kampuchea has several ramifications. Besides being a conflict which essentially involves the irreconcilable interests of Thailand and Vietnam it is also a conflict between Vietnam and China and, of course, in a larger sense, between China and the Soviet Union. Given this "wheels within wheels" situation, it is not surprising that the long drawn-out struggle has become intractable. Features such as Vietnam's annual forays in the Thai-Kampuchean border area, the increase in the number of Kampuchean refugees and ASEAN's efforts at various international fora to keep the issue alive have taken on a ritualistic character that has made any meaningful move towards resolution that much more distant and difficult.

This book, which grew out of a workshop on ASEAN-Vietnam relations organized by the Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, in 1983, takes this stalemate as its starting point and addresses itself to the question of the future beyond the Kampuchean issue. Despite the subtitle, it is essentially concerned with relations between Thailand and Vietnam, these two being the regional actors most directly involved in the Kampuchean problem.

The first chapter, by Dhavorn Sukhakanya, provides the historical background to this rivalry, while the second by Sarasin Viraphol delineates Thailand's perspective in this respect. The third chapter by Gareth Porter takes us a bit further by looking at the implications of Vietnam's policy towards Thailand as it operates now and is likely to operate in the future. Carlyle Thayer's concluding chapter in Part I deals with ideological issues confronting Vietnam and seeks to explore its effect on both domestic and foreign policy behaviour. The first two chapters in Part II trace the effect of this prolonged conflict on Thai politics and economy respectively. This is followed by Nayan Chanda's paper on the problems and prospects of Vietnam's economy. The next chapter by Jacques Bekaert deals with the future of ASEAN-Vietnam relations in the context of the prevailing insurgency problem in Southeast Asia. In the following paper, Alan Dawson talks about the implications of a long-term conflict for Thai-Vietnamese relations. The concluding chapter by Peter Polomka lucidly explains the effects of the expanding role of the Great Powers in the region. Part III of the book is a summary of the main strands of thoughts that run through this study. Some of the chapters are followed by discussions which are quite stimulating.

In a study such as this, it is often difficult to come up with a single policy recom-

mendation for the future, a problem to which the editor has alerted us right at the beginning. Although the papers are well presented, most of them are principally confined to an analysis of the situation as it obtains today, which in my opinion detracts from the main aim of this enterprise. To that extent, certain observations merely seem a repetition of established views on the subject especially those that deal with Vietnam's intransigence or even of ASEAN's unity in the face of this stalemated crisis. The volume, however, makes one thing clear and this is that the complacency of those who regard stalemate as (in Turley's phrase) "satisficing" is misplaced. To that extent, it must be said that the two-year lag in publication has in no way diminished its relevance.

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