

By way of conclusion, it can be said that this book is an important contribution to the understanding of Vietnamese society since 1975, with an emphasis on the current process of economic renovation in the country. The book is recommended reading for anyone interested in current developments in Vietnam as well as those interested in the broader implications of economic and political change in socialist countries.

RAMSES AMER
Uppsala University
Sweden

***Southeast Asia: The Human Landscape of Modernization and Development.* By Jonathan Rigg. London: Routledge, 1997. 326 pp.**

This book is a very welcome addition to the literature on modernization and development, written from the perspective of a human geographer, but it contains exactly the sort of inter-disciplinary insights that all good social scientists aspire to. It is also a very timely book, appearing before the so-called "meltdown" of the miracle economies in Southeast Asia and, of course, the wider implications of that for the region as a whole. These economies were previously held up as models of development, examples which the emerging economies in South America and Africa could follow and assume their place among the prosperous nations. The foremost proponent of this thesis was the World Bank which, in its now famous report, the "East Asian Miracle" (published in 1993), argued that the fantastic growth in this region was due mainly to the superior accumulation of human and physical capital, combined with the ability to use these more productively than other developing countries. In July 1997, this miracle first appeared to falter and then later was on the verge of collapse as currencies in the region became subject to widespread depreciation on world markets for a variety of reasons.

Jonathan Rigg, however, is not concerned with the macroeconomic policies of international organizations, or the large-scale context of where they fit into world markets. Rather, he is concerned with the fundamental relationships within these societies which shape development and impact upon the local people in a highly individual way. There are four parts to the text. First, he deals with the conceptual

landscape of development and modernization in which he assesses the theories in development studies, their failure to deal with many of the real problems in the region, and asks ultimately how we can conceive alternative views on development and what this would mean? In the second part, Rigg focuses on the way in which people — urban, rural and indigenous — have become marginalized by the processes of development: who is excluded, why and what can happen within the system to change the dilemma of exclusion or the feeling that many people have had of being very much “not” part of any miracle. Thirdly, he assesses various worlds through this process: the rural world, the factory world, and the interactions between these divergent paths of development. The way in which the poor are located within society, the way in which farmers come into contact with the urban landscape, and the way urbanization affects agriculture and rural areas, are brought under the spotlight. Lastly, he concludes with a section called “Chasing the Wind: Modernization and Development in Southeast Asia”, which brings these various themes together and enables us to deal with them. Throughout the book there are many plates, boxes, tables and figures, giving us a wealth of empirical evidence with which to understand his positions. The countries included are the once regarded “miracle economies”, like Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, together with newly emerging economies, such as Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, which are seen in the light of their former command structures, which are struggling with the effort to change their economies, all the more because the former models have experienced tremendous difficulty.

Rigg also assesses indigenous notions of development which have been seen as alternatives, which might prove sustainable compared to the quick fixes suggested by other policy bodies. Buddhism, Islamic practices, the “Asian way” are highlighted in an effort to put development and its variants in a critical and reflective light. Particularly important, and something that should be emphasized, is the downside of modernization and how it affects the lives of ordinary people. The way in which labour is marginalized, the massive problem of prostitution, AIDs and even the number of people living off garbage within many of these societies allows us another perspective of the miracle, one often not seen. Rigg deals with the details thus:

In the early 1990s there were some 3,000 families (20,000 people) making a living rummaging through, sorting, and selling garbage on Smoky Mountain. Everything has a value from broken glass (0.10 pesos/kilo), to rubber (1.5 pesos/kg), bones (0.5 pesos/kg) and scrap copper (pesos/kg). Scavenging for 12 hours a day can earn the picker US\$0.75–1.25 (p. 135).

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.

KENNETH CHRISTIE

*Department of Comparative Politics
University of Bergen, Norway*

***Regional Maritime Management and Security.* Edited by Sam Bateman and Stephen Bates.** Canberra: Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University, 1998. 209 pp.

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