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LEARNING FROM COVID-19 IN SOUTHEAST ASIA Restriction, Relief, Recovery

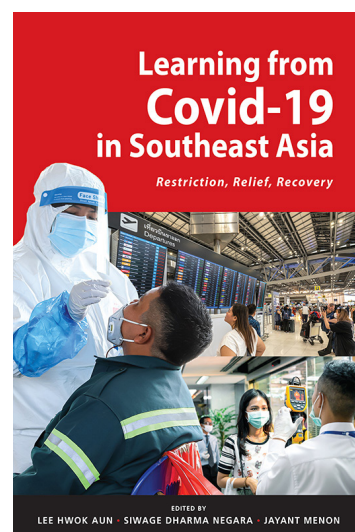
edited by
**Lee Hwok Aun, Siwage Dharma Negara
and Jayant Menon**

About the EDITORS

Lee Hwok Aun is Senior Fellow and Co-Coordinator of the Malaysia Studies Programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute.

Siwage Dharma Negara is Senior Fellow, Co-Coordinator of the Indonesia Studies Programme, and Coordinator of the Singapore APEC Study Centre at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute.

Jayant Menon is Senior Fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute.



About the BOOK

“The Covid-19 pandemic was unprecedented in its impact and repercussions which are still being felt today. The Southeast Asian region is no exception with the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives, economic contraction, and increased poverty. The impact varied across the region. Some countries were more effective than others at implementing lockdowns and delivering public health interventions. Pandemic responses were also differentiated by the efficacy of communication, policy coordination, and leadership. Policy evaluations have highlighted the need to improve institutional capacity as well as global and regional cooperation to respond to future public health crises. This timely and crucial volume, authored by leading regional scholars, thoroughly explores these issues and more. It is indispensable reading for anyone interested in Southeast Asia and broader international development challenges.”

*Mari Pangestu, Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank (2020–23);
Former Minister of Trade and Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia*

2025

579 pp.

PIC306

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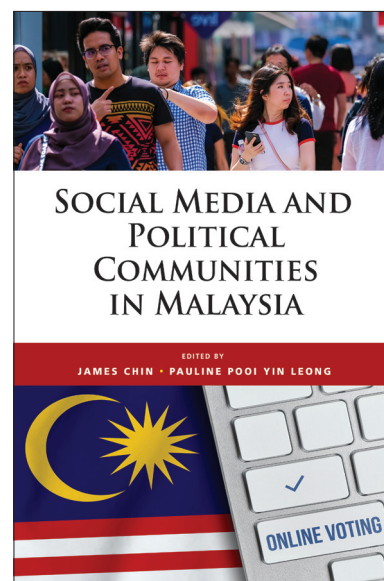
SOCIAL MEDIA AND POLITICAL COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA

edited by
James Chin and
Pauline Pooi Yin Leong

About the EDITORS

James Chin is Senior Fellow and the Director of Governance Studies, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University, Malaysia.

Pauline Pooi Yin Leong is Associate Professor, Department of Communication, School of Arts, Sunway University, Malaysia.



About the BOOK

"By examining the political discourse and social interactions that occur within six different political communities in Malaysia, this volume sheds light on how theories of political communication and social media play out on a granular level. Malaysia, with its interesting amalgam of democratic politics and intractable racial and religious divides, is ripe for a study of how online communication within different political and social groups actually works. With chapters on Malay, Islamic, Chinese, Indian, and Christian online communities, along with those of Sabah and Sarawak, this volume will be of interest to anyone seeking a deeper understanding of how political interaction and digital discourse function on the ground in this important country in Southeast Asia."

*Janet Steele, Professor of Media and Public Affairs and International Affairs
George Washington University*

2024

248 pp.

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PRAETORIAN KINGDOM A History of Military Ascendancy in Thailand

by
Paul Chambers

About the AUTHOR

Paul Chambers is Lecturer and Special Advisor on International Affairs at the Center of ASEAN Community Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Naresuan University, Thailand.

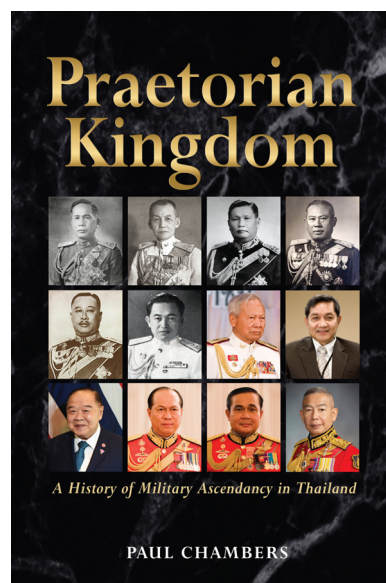
About the BOOK

"This is one of the most comprehensive studies of contemporary Thai politics seen through the careers of Thai military leaders since 1932 up until now. It is of vital importance if one is to understand present-day Thai politics."

*Kullada Kesboonchoo-Mead, Chulalongkorn University (retired),
author of The Rise and Decline of Thai Absolutism*

"Paul Chambers has written, arguably, the most comprehensive and detailed book on the evolution of Thailand's military power from the post-World War II era to the present day. This lucid book is a compelling read for anyone seeking to gain insight into the transformation of the country into a praetorian kingdom, where the monarchy and the military are the most powerful institutions. His delicate exploration of the various plots, methods, strategies, twists and betrayals provides readers with valuable perspectives on the inner workings and dynamics of Thailand's praetorian system. One of the book's strengths lies in its use of declassified and leaked documents from the US administrations, adding a sense of excitement and credibility to the analysis."

*Puangthong Pawakapan, Chulalongkorn University,
author of Infiltrating Society: The Thai Military's Internal Security Affairs*



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Blue Pawn, Red Pawn and the Communist Party of Vietnam's Gambit for Legitimacy

by
Nguyen Hoang Thanh Danh

About the AUTHOR

Nguyen Hoang Thanh Danh currently teaches Politics of Southeast Asia at Hosei University and Vietnamese at Showa Women's University, both located in Tokyo, Japan.

About the BOOK

"This is a long-awaited book discussing systematically the political system in Vietnam: why has the present political regime continued for such a long period, and what are the resources of legitimacy concerning the communist rule. The book also covers the recent development in the political scene, including the anti-corruption campaign and the frequent changes in the top leadership."

*Shiraishi Masaya, Emeritus Professor, Waseda University;
Former Chairman, Japan Society for Vietnamese Studies*

"As a business journalist at Forbes Vietnam, understanding shifts in socioeconomic trends and policymaking processes is crucial for my work. I am pleased to endorse this research book on Vietnam politics and the legitimacy-building of the one-party state's leadership. The book delves into the intricate dynamics of the Communist Party of Vietnam's legitimacy, which are instrumental in understanding the economic policies and reforms that have shaped Vietnam's growth, especially since the Doi Moi era. The exploration of current challenges, including Western influence, corruption, governance issues and territorial disputes, offers a comprehensive understanding of the pressures faced by the CPV. While the book may not be an easy read for the general public, it remains a valuable and rare contribution to the study of Vietnam politics, an area that, in my opinion, has not been covered well or frequently enough."

Nguyen Trong Nam, Journalist, Forbes Vietnam

2025

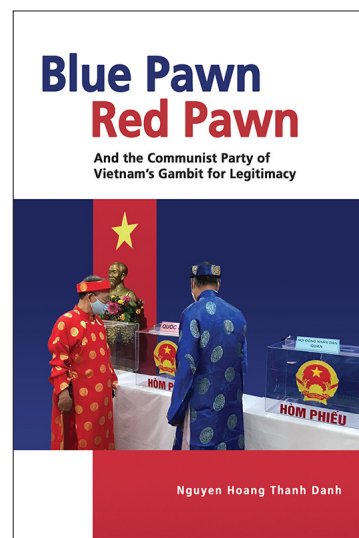
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Forthcoming Title

TOWARDS THE INDONESIAN REPUBLIC Marxist Lineages in the National Revolution

by
Geoffrey C. Gunn

Est. pub. date: Mid-2025

About the AUTHOR

Geoffrey C. Gunn is Emeritus Professor at the Nagasaki University, Japan, and Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Macau Studies, University of Macau, China.

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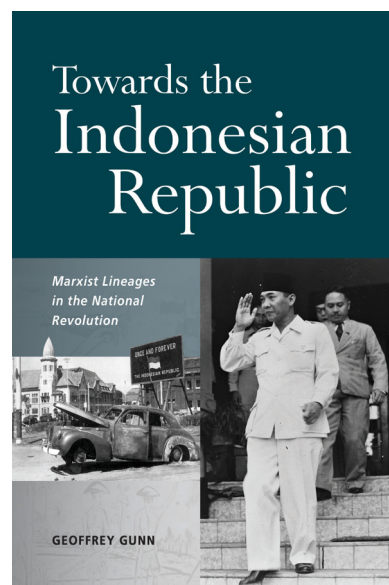
Drawing on little known archival sources, this work brings to the fore the salience of a schism in the Indonesian communist movement between pro-Moscow loyalists and “national-communists” reaching back to the 1920s, which survived even the Japanese occupation and surfaced in the throes of the National Revolution (1945–49). At the heart of the rift lay contrasting visions of revolutionary tactics, the salience of Islam in an Islamic majority society, the vexed question of alliance between leftists and other anti-colonial forces, and even the concept and definition of state and national ideology. As such, we cannot ignore the lineages of Marxism in the National Revolution, which trace their roots to the pioneer actions on Java by Dutch communists, themselves influenced by the Bolshevik Revolution. Contrary to the image of a non-revolutionary peasantry and a nationalist leadership broken or tamed by colonial carceral practices, the picture that emerges is one of acute agency on the part of an awoken population at a critical historical moment at the end of World War II.

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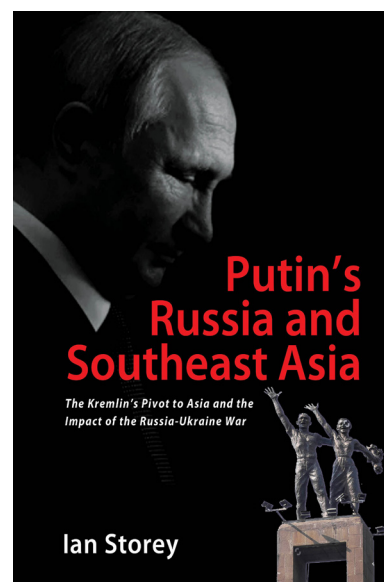
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PUTIN'S RUSSIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA The Kremlin's Pivot to Asia and the Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War

by
Ian Storey

Est. pub. date: Mid-2025



About the AUTHOR

Ian Storey is Senior Fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

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Forthcoming Title

WEE KIM WEE President, Diplomat, Journalist and a True Singaporean

by
Cheong Suk-Wai

Est. pub. date: End-2025

About the AUTHOR

Cheong Suk-Wai is a lawyer by training, and a writer by choice. A former ASEAN Scholar and Thomson Foundation Scholar, she has been a construction litigator, a journalist and a public servant.

About the BOOK

Dr Wee Kim Wee was a pioneering Singaporean journalist and diplomat with a most improbable rise and rise in life. Among his many other accomplishments, he helped end a regional war; kept one of the world's oldest newspapers alive till today; and rescued the presidency of the Republic of Singapore from a spell in the gutter. Just as water softens stone, he overcame the grimmest odds with his winsome ways and unimpeachable character.

This meticulously researched book brims with fresh insights about the man most Singaporeans claimed as "my President". They include telling facets from the author's interviews with more than 30 people who knew Dr Wee best in every decade of his storied life. Dr Wee started out being too poor to complete secondary school to holding Singapore's highest office. His lightly worn shrewdness and genuine regard for all living things plucked him out of obscurity and thrust him into moments that shook Singapore, eventually making him a beloved household name.

Dr Wee was the embodiment of Singapore exceptionalism and this biography is the last word on a sort of man that Singapore will rarely, if ever, encounter again.

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Forthcoming Title

THE BENJAMIN SHEARES STORY From Pioneering Gynaecologist to Singapore President

by
K.C. Vijayan

Est. pub. date: End 2025

About the AUTHOR

K.C. Vijayan served as Senior Law Correspondent with the *Straits Times* where he garnered several awards over a twenty-year career.

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Forthcoming Title

THE DURIAN FLAVOUR India, ASEAN after a Decade of the Act East Policy

by
Gurjit Singh

Est. pub. date: Mid-2025

About the AUTHOR

Gurjit Singh was India's ambassador to Indonesia and ASEAN from 2012 to 2015.

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Forthcoming Title

MALAYSIA'S 2022 GENERAL ELECTION Crafting Power in a Crowded Arena

edited by
Lee Hwok-Aun and Francis E. Hutchinson

Est. pub. date: End 2025

About the EDITORS

Lee Hwok Aun is Senior Fellow and Co-coordinator of the Malaysia Studies Programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Francis E. Hutchinson is Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Malaysia Studies Programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

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Forthcoming Title

KIRPA RAM VIJ The Volunteer Who Launched an Army

**by
*Ramachandran Menon***

Est. pub. date: End 2025

About the AUTHOR

Ramachandran Menon was an infantry officer of the inaugural cohort commissioned at the Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute (SAFTI) in 1967 when Kirpa Ram Vij was the director.

About the BOOK

For the first ten years of its history, one soldier dominated the build-up of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Mobilized by Defence Minister Dr Goh Keng Swee after Singapore's expulsion from Malaysia on 9 August 1965, Kirpa Ram Vij, then a captain in the Singapore Volunteer Artillery, established the Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute (SAFTI) with Israeli Defence Force advisors. Together with them, he also formulated many SAF operational doctrines that still underlie SAF land forces' training. He launched advanced leadership training establishments including the School of Advanced Training for Officers (SATO) and the Dr Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College (CSC). He attained the then top uniformed appointment of Director, General Staff, as a Brigadier General. Overtaken by numerous cohorts of younger administrative service officers for senior civil service posts while in the SAF, he quit government service to join Neptune Orient Lines (NOL) where he mastered computer freight services as General Manager, Administration among other top management jobs. On retirement from NOL, he was initially appointed Consultant, and later Chief Executive Officer of Gateway Distriparks Limited (GDL, a Singapore consortium, and installed India's first foreign-owned computer freight service terminal in Navi Mumbai, later to be listed in both India and New York with great success).

Kirpa Ram passed away on 29 October 2022. This account traces his life story and his contributions to the SAF and Singapore.

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Forthcoming Title

MY TURBULENT LIFE AND 21 YEARS OF EXILE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

by
Pridi Banomyong

Est. pub. date: End 2025

About the AUTHOR

Pridi Banomyong (Luang Praditmanutham) was the Former Regent and Prime Minister of Siam (Thailand).

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 23. A New Type of Chinese Person and the New Teaching System
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Forthcoming Title

MYANMAR The Making of an Intelligence State

by
Andrew Selth

Est. pub. date: End 2025

About the AUTHOR

Andrew Selth is Adjunct Professor at Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

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Forthcoming Title

PLUNDERING SECURITY? The Economic Power of Thailand's Military

edited by
Paul Chambers

Est. pub. date: Early 2026

About the AUTHOR

Paul Chambers is Lecturer and Special Advisor on International Affairs at the Center of ASEAN Community Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Naresuan University Thailand.

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8. Conscription as Khaki Capital in Thailand, by *Elin Bjarnegård, Rungrawee Chalermripinyorat, Anders Engvall, Srisompob Jitpiromsri, and Erik Melander*

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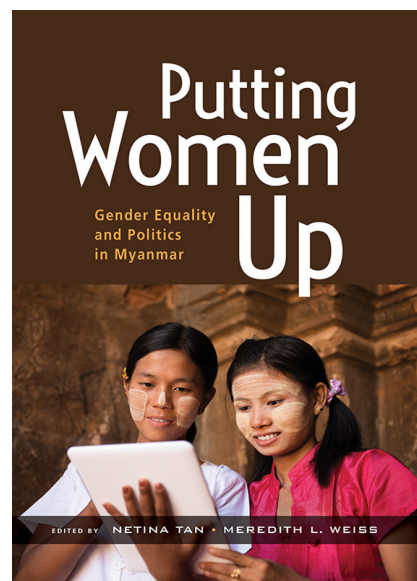
PUTTING WOMEN UP Gender Equality and Politics in Myanmar

edited by
Netina Tan and Meredith L. Weiss

About the EDITORS

Netina Tan is University Fellow and Associate Professor of Political Science at McMaster University, Canada.

Meredith L. Weiss is Professor and Chair of Political Science in the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York, USA.



About the BOOK

For the duration of Myanmar's experiment with electoral democracy, why did some women run for political office, and not others? What role did gatekeepers such as party leaders play in those decisions, and using what criteria in selecting candidates? How did experience of domestic violence or harassment affect women's likelihood to participate in politics, especially beyond the local level? And what implications might these earlier patterns have for a post-coup Myanmar, should meaningful elections be restored?

The contributors to *Putting Women Up: Gender Equality and Politics in Myanmar* answer these questions by examining the internal politics of nine political parties in Myanmar and both men's and women's attitudes towards and experiences of political leadership. Drawing on extensive interview, survey, and focus-group discussion data collected from across Myanmar in 2017 and 2020, this book offers a mixed-methods approach to explain how factors from party rules to formative personal trauma to patriarchal biases to ethno-religious context shape women's and men's likelihood to join local and national politics. The findings expand on culturalist insights on gender inequality to provide context-sensitive, evidence-backed policy recommendations to promote women's political leadership, despite militarization and violence in post-coup Myanmar.

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206 pp.

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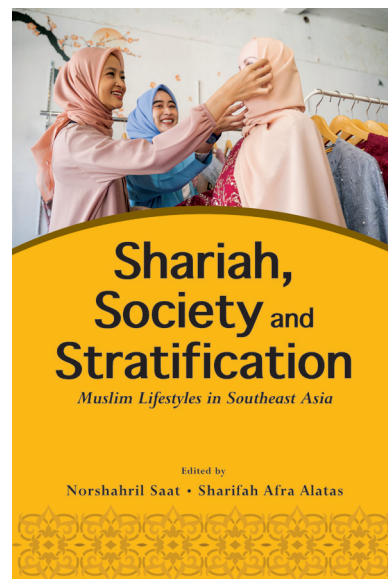
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SHARIAH, SOCIETY AND STRATIFICATION Muslim Lifestyles in Southeast Asia

edited by
**Norshahril Saat and
Sharifah Afra Alatas**



About the EDITORS

Norshahril Saat is Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Regional Social and Cultural Studies Programme, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Sharifah Afra Alatas is Research Officer in the Regional Social and Cultural Studies Programme, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

About the BOOK

Since the Islamic resurgence hit Southeast Asia in the 1980s, Muslim societies now have greater aspirations for adhering to the Shariah, the body of laws meant to govern Muslims' day-to-day lives. At the institutional level, the desire for this compliance manifested in the establishment of various institutions such as Islamic banking and financial programmes. At the personal and societal levels, there are increasing demands for the provision of halal-certified goods and services, most commonly in the food and beverage industry. However, increasingly, compliance to the Shariah is no longer limited to laws or ensuring that food and beverages are halal, but has become an entire lifestyle. The rise of the Muslim middle class in Southeast Asia has catalysed this preference. Muslim consumers now demand that products in other industries, such as fashion, sports, tourism, medicine and personal hygiene, should also be Shariah-compliant and even reminiscent of the time in which Prophet Muhammad lived. This book analyses the various social, economic, and political forces that have contributed to such trends across many countries in Southeast Asia. In identifying these trends and the forces that shape them, it discusses the potential consequences of such a lifestyle on society, specifically in entrenching various forms of stratification.

2024

230 pp.

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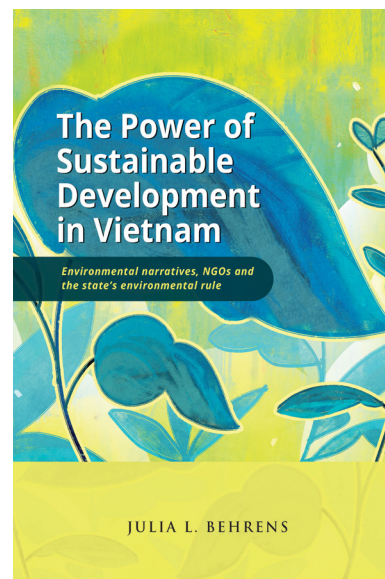
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THE POWER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM Environmental Narratives, NGOs and the State's Environmental Rule

by
Julia L. Behrens



About the AUTHOR

Julia L. Behrens is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department for Social Anthropology at Bielefeld University, Germany. She holds a PhD in Southeast Asian Studies from Humboldt University, Berlin.

About the BOOK

Sustainable development is present everywhere in Vietnam. This book analyses the Sustainable Development narrative and its use by different actors in Vietnam. It examines how narratives are used to establish environmental rule in the socialist state. By focusing on NGOs and their positions in the Vietnamese context, the book illustrates how different actors use the Sustainable Development narrative to navigate power relations with the authoritarian state and the international donors, and how the narrative differs from theory to the actual practices on the ground. The book will be of interest to scholars of Vietnam who wish to understand development and state-society relations in environmental governance. It is an important read for development practitioners.

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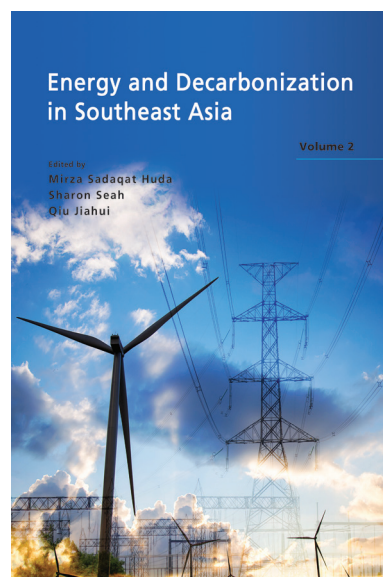
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ENERGY AND DECARBONIZATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, volume 2

edited by
**Mirza Sadaqat Huda, Sharon Seah
and Qiu Jiahui**

Est. pub. date: Mid-2025



About the EDITORS

Mirza Sadaqat Huda is Lead Researcher at the Climate Change in Southeast Asia Programme (CCSEAP) of the ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Sharon Seah is Senior Fellow and concurrent Coordinator of the ASEAN Studies Centre and the Climate Change in Southeast Asia Programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Qiu Jiahui is a Research Officer in the Climate Change in Southeast Asia Programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

About the BOOK

“Southeast Asia is poised to play a pivotal role in global energy decarbonization, driven by its rapidly expanding economies and growing populations. However, the region remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels to meet its energy demands. *Energy and Decarbonization in Southeast Asia* delves into the critical research topics shaping the region’s path towards sustainable energy transformation. From regional interconnectivity via the ASEAN Power Grid to advancements in solar and wind energy, carbon capture and storage, low-carbon hydrogen, and green financing, this book provides a comprehensive exploration of innovative strategies and pressing challenges.

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RISING CHINA China's Culture and Its Transformation in Southeast Asia

***edited by
Leo Suryadinata***

Est. pub. date: End 2025

About the EDITOR

Leo Suryadinata is Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore; formerly Professor, Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore.

About the BOOK

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MELAYU, PEOPLE, PLACE Ethnohistories from the Riau-Lingga Islands, Indonesia

by
Vivienne Wee

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About the AUTHOR

Vivienne Wee is an anthropologist who has done extensive field research in the Riau Archipelago and other parts of Sumatra since 1979.

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Chapter 3: What Happened to the Sultanate?
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Chapter 7: Orang Karas (People of Karas)
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