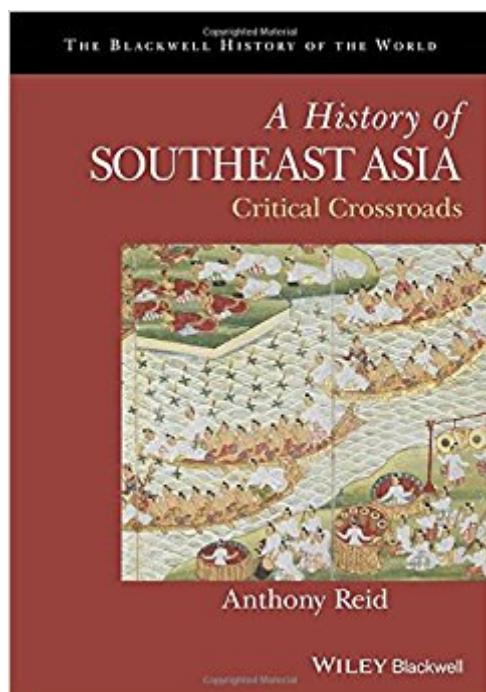


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# A History Of Southeast Asia: Critical Crossroads (Blackwell History Of The World)



## Synopsis

A History of Southeast Asia: Critical Crossroads presents a comprehensive history of Southeast Asia from our earliest knowledge of its civilizations and religious patterns up to the present day. Incorporates environmental, social, economic, and gender issues to tell a multi-dimensional story of Southeast Asian history from earliest times to the present Argues that while the region remains a highly diverse mix of religions, ethnicities, and political systems, it demands more attention for how it manages such diversity while being receptive to new ideas and technologies Demonstrates how Southeast Asia can offer alternatives to state-centric models of history more broadly 2016 PROSE Award Honorable Mention for Textbook in the Humanities

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Among the book's many virtues is Reid's ability to break down the two thousand years he had to cover in order to guide the reader through space and time. ...Written in a straightforward, no-nonsense style, the book will be accessible to many, with judiciously chosen quotations to enliven the story." (Australian Institute of International Affairs, 1 November 2015) "Understanding the region is therefore not just a matter of intellectual curiosity but also of considerable topical importance. Despite its textbook-like appearance, History is eminently readable. It succeeds at both providing a broad-brush overview of this complex region, presenting it from within, identifying and tracing major themes, while at the same time delivering a wealth of fascinating and intriguing detail." (Asian Review of Books, 25

November 2015) “Reid’s comprehensive survey covers all of the major societies and many of the minor ones from Burma to the Philippines throughout the centuries. The thematic approach, interpretative insights, useful bibliography, and almost encyclopaedic wealth of information will make Reid’s History of Southeast Asia an exceptionally valuable, even indispensable, resource and reference book for other scholars. This book is a splendid contribution that can and should be read and discussed with interest by scholars and teachers of Southeast Asian studies as well as world and Eurasian history.” (Asian Studies Review)

Reid’s book is elegantly written, carefully crafted, and amply effective in its articulation and presentation of a clear, coherent, and compelling account of Southeast Asian history. The book is a stunning achievement, certain to become the history of Southeast Asia for many years to come. John Sidel, London School of Economics, UK “Anthony Reid has not only summarized his broad and deep knowledge of Southeast Asian history but entered into dialog with other scholars from a variety of fields to produce what will be the authoritative history of this region for years to come.” Mary Somers Heidhues, Göttingen, Germany “A really wonderful history, one that I think will find a large audience, and deservedly so. This new volume will be a very significant contribution to the field.” Eric Tagliacozzo, Cornell University, USA Few places in the world possess greater historical complexity than the culturally diverse region of Southeast Asia. *A History of Southeast Asia: Critical Crossroads* presents a comprehensive, single-volume history of Southeast Asia from its encounters with agriculture, metallurgy, and religion to the late emergence of the ten states that make up this region today. Breaking from the dominant colonial and nationalist narrative that highlights Southeast Asia’s quest for statehood as its defining characteristic, historian Anthony Reid shifts the primary focus to factors of greater relevance to its inhabitants, such as environmental, religious, social, cultural, demographic, health, and intellectual changes. The result is a fuller and more richly detailed account of the region’s complex and nuanced history. Reid reveals Southeast Asia’s distinctive gender pattern was challenged first by scriptural religions and later by European models of middle-class domesticity. Also covered is the seventeenth-century impoverishment of the region relative to European society, and Southeast Asia’s “peasantization” during the high colonial era. Concluding chapters focus on transformative events of the twentieth century: from the region’s development as a major battleground for the Pacific War with its aftermath of decolonization and the Cold War to the region’s long-awaited emergence from poverty, dictatorship, and conflict in the final

decades of the century. A History of Southeast Asia: Critical Crossroads is indispensable for understanding the historic rhythm of this important crossroads of the Asian continent.

I really enjoy reading history books and I'm generally a speed reader so the fact that this book has taken me a year to get through describes just how dry it is. The author fails to provide any narrative history of the peoples of southeast Asia. While this book covers history of the region from as early as the twelfth century, it is fairly clear that the author is only really interested in the last 100 years. I visited Thailand for the first time last year and I was interested in finding more about the history between the different cultures of the region, not just European influence on their societies.

A lot of good information, but it's pretty dry.

I haven't read it all the way through but from what I've read it is very good. I do think it needs some more maps as it describes a lot of places in the book and the maps that are provided are somewhat confusing. But the level of scholarship here is very high.

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