

Recent Books on Cambodia – April 2018

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Anthropology

Svay : A Khmer Village in Cambodia / May Mayko Ebihara (Ed) Andrew Mertha
(Intro) Judy Ledgerwood
Ithaca, New York, USA: Southeast Asia Program Publication (imprint of Cornell
University Press), 2018
(Originally presented as author's thesis (Ph.D) – Columbia University 1971)
xxxii, 332p.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical references

9781501715129

1. Khmers – Cambodia – Svay Rieng
2. Village communities – Cambodia – Svay Rieng
3. Svay Rieng (Cambodia) – Social life and customs
4. Svay Rieng (Cambodia) – History – 20th century

\$ 23.95 / PB

650gm.

May Mayko Ebihara (1934–2005) was the first American anthropologist to conduct ethnographic research in Cambodia. Svay provides a remarkably detailed picture of individual villagers and of Khmer social structure and kinship, agriculture, politics, and religion. The world Ebihara described would soon be shattered by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. Fifty percent of the villagers perished in the reign of terror, including those who had been Ebihara's adoptive parents and grandparents during her fieldwork. Never before published as a book, Ebihara's dissertation served as the foundation for much of our subsequent understanding of Cambodian history, society, and politics.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=367711>

Architecture

La Pagode Khmere : Les cent plus anciens sanctuaires du Cambodge...
et quelques autres / Danielle & Dominique-Pierre Gueret

Phnom Penh: KAM editions, 2017

182p.

In French

9789924903734

\$ 60.00 / PB

512gm.

Danielle and Dominique-Pierre Gu  ret are the authors of the first book ever written about the Cambodian pagodas: "The Khmer pagoda, the hundred oldest Cambodian pagodas... along with some other noteworthy examples".

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=367712>

History

Monarchical Manipulation in Cambodia : France, Japan, and the Sihanouk
Crusade for Independence / Geoffrey C. Gunn
Copenhagen K. Denmark: NIAS Press, 2018
xii, 510p.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9788776942380
\$ 28.00 / PB
742gm.

One figure strides across modern Cambodian history—Norodom Sihanouk. From his accession to the throne of Cambodia in 1941 until his extravagant funeral ceremony in 2013, the prince turned 'king father' in later life never dodged controversy. But this is not a biography of Sihanouk; the focus is upon the final decades of the French protectorate, the rise of a counter-elite and winning of Cambodia's independence.

Manipulation of the 1,000-year-old monarchy comes to the heart of this book, as does indigenous resistance, Buddhist activism, French cultural creationism, the rise of radical republicanism, Thai recidivism and wartime Japanese machinations. Carried through into the post-war period, the seeds of Cambodia's own destruction were being sown in the jungle perimeters, rubber plantations, schools and monkhood, and even in the classrooms of prestigious French institutions.

Deeply embedded Khmer cultural conventions and the interplay of charismatic power and patronage are not irrelevant to this discussion, indeed inform us as to the future and even present-day patterns of political behaviour. The skill of the young Sihanouk in navigating between Vichy France, Japanese militarists, republican opportunists, armed rural insurgency and French proconsuls is brought to life by a range of new archival documentation. A book is also a work of premonition as much inquiry, exploring how did a country of such grace and natural bounty come to be associated with the worst excesses of mass murder and genocide experienced in the twentieth century. The long political prelude as exposed in this book makes the now clichéd 'tragedy of Cambodian history' much more comprehensible.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=367713>

Travel Guidebooks

Tourism Sites of Cambodia / Keo Phuong (Translator) Oav Cago & William Bryan

Third Edition

Phnom Penh: Ponleu Khmer Printing & Publishing House, 2017

xiv, 384p.

9789995062088

\$ 40.00/ PB

664gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=367714>
