
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION
THE STUDY OF SOCIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY IN MAINLAND
SOUTHEAST ASIA 1

CHAPTER 1
PRIMITIVE AND TRIBAL WORLDS AND THEIR
TRANSFORMATIONS 13

Primitive and tribal cultures in Southeast Asian prehistory and history
Types of primitive and tribal systems in mainland Southeast Asia
The Semang of the Malay Peninsula
The Chin of Northern Burma
The Karens of Burma and Thailand

CHAPTER 2
DEVELOPMENT OF THERAVADA BUDDHIST CIVILIZATION IN
MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA 65

The classic Indianized civilizations
The Tai and the restructuring of Southeast Asian societies
Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia
Theravada Buddhism as a popular religion
Traditional Theravada Buddhist societies and the challenge of colonialism
The impact of Western colonialism on the Theravada Buddhist societies

CHAPTER 3
RURAL LIFE IN THERAVADA BUDDHIST SOCIETIES 113

Cultural knowledge of Theravada Buddhist villagers
Population and social structure

Ecological adaptation and economic organization
Local communities and the political organization of rural life
Religion, social structure, and rural life

CHAPTER 4
TRADITION AND REVOLUTION IN VIETNAM 181

Traditional society in Vietnam
Cultural traditions and cultural conflict in traditional Vietnam
Vietnam as a colonial society
Vietnam in cultural crisis
War and the two Vietnams
Rural life in Communist Vietnam
Ideology, education, and values in Communist Vietnam

CHAPTER 5
CITIES IN CHANGING SOCIETIES IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA 259

Premodern cities and religiously oriented societies
Colonial cities in plural societies
Political culture and contemporary cities in mainland Southeast Asia
The economic role of cities in contemporary mainland Southeast Asia
Life in contemporary cities in mainland Southeast Asia

APPENDIX A
LANGUAGE GROUPINGS IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA 339

APPENDIX B
SIZE, DENSITY, URBAN COMPOSITION, AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF POPULATIONS IN THE COUNTRIES OF MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA 343

INDEX 347