

schools in many areas across the country. This sets a new agenda for research on the experience of immigrants and refugees from Southeast Asia. It is likely that Nancy Donnelly's work will provide the base line for future research in this area.

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Vietnam's Reforms and Economic Growth. By CHARLES HARVIE and TRAN VAN HOA. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997. 256 pp. \$65.00 (cloth).

Vietnam remains one of the world's most enigmatic countries. Misunderstood by casual observers, scholars, and investors, to this day the name "Vietnam" conjures myriad images. Most of them are dated or simply false. All too often the name Vietnam evokes grisly recollections of war, boat people, and poverty. To many analysts, Vietnam's contribution is the lesson it continues to teach us about the geopolitical dangers and tragic consequences that result from interventionist foreign policy driven by hubris and ignorance. Despite this important lesson, it is unfortunate that too often Vietnam still is perceived only as a war, rather than as an extraordinarily unique, complex, and dynamic country struggling to find its way and to join the global economy.

In *Vietnam's Reforms and Economic Growth*, Charles Harvie and Tran Van Hoa help to dispel false perceptions and introduce readers to many of the complex and interactive forces that constitute today's Vietnam. To this end the book makes contributions, some of which are discussed below.

The book is well organized and shares with readers a sound overview of important issues. Chapter 1 provides a nice introduction and frames the issues well. Unlike many economic analysts, in chapter 2, Harvie and Tran integrate and discuss many forces and factors that helped to shape and continue to shape present-day Vietnam. The importance of the influences of history, geography, demographics, and social indicators, as well as recent regional trends, are often greatly underappreciated and cannot be overstated. Thus, the brief discussions of geography and human resources, for example, are welcome. Similarly, the authors' examination in the context of regional developments and comparisons, particularly the discussion of other East Asian models of development (chapter 5), and Vietnam's interpretation and operationalization of market socialism—in comparison to China's interpretation, and programs (chapter 8)—also are important inclusions. Readers should note, however, that chapter 5 clearly was written before the 1997 economic crisis, from which many countries in the region only now are emerging. In this light, the references to the "East Asian Miracle" in chapter 5 seem somewhat simplistic and fail to address some of the problems associated with this generalized model of development. Given that the Communist Party of Vietnam seeks to emulate some of this model—heavy state intervention in and guidance of a market-oriented economy—it would seem a discussion of some of the shortcomings is warranted. In fairness to the authors, however, their sentiments are consistent with the *zeitgeist* prior to the crisis.

The description of events that led to *doi moi* and the articulation of *doi moi* (chapter 3) also is good. The overview of the macroeconomic results from *doi moi* (chapter 4) is good as well. Again, however, some of the statistics seem somewhat dated since many references were only as recent as 1994. Chapter 6 provides a worthy needs assessment and offers generally accepted advice on important steps to sustain economic

growth; for example, by developing human capital, rebuilding infrastructure, courting direct foreign investment, etc.

Readers already familiar with Vietnam's history and socioeconomic transition are likely to find chapter 7 the most interesting contribution of the book. In this chapter the authors discuss Vietnam's prospects to the year 2010. Though the authors acknowledge that such a chapter "necessarily must be speculative in nature" (p. 137) and only can be based on assumptions, here the text moves from description to prognostication. Extensions of projections by the World Bank and Economist Intelligence Unit are provided, with the general conclusion that projections for macroeconomic performance are "encouraging" (pp. 149, 163). It is important to note that several significant problems must be overcome to maintain current rates of growth. Ongoing problems, as well as new problems that have emerged since the date of the book's publication, are causing many prognosticators to be less optimistic than Harvie and Tran. Additionally, this chapter is somewhat Australia-centric. For example, the authors specifically discuss Australia's prospects in Vietnam (p. 157). Given the authors' professional affiliations, this focus is understandable, but some non-Australians—this reviewer, for example—wondered why they *only* addressed Australia's prospects. Singapore, China, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Korea, the United States, and other countries have interests and thus prospects as well. Though there is cause for guarded optimism in Vietnam, the country remains a difficult environment, for both Vietnamese and foreign investors, in which to do business or simply to invoke institutional change that will affect economic development. Even though some macroeconomic indicators are promising, Vietnam does indeed face numerous challenges, many of which could be remedied by policy changes that the government still is not willing to make. The book concludes with a summary and conclusions in chapter 9.

Though now somewhat dated, the book provides a generally sound economic overview of Vietnam. For readers looking for more depth and breadth beyond economic analyses, the book may be too technocratic, as it does not really reveal the dynamism of the people, now nearly 80 million strong. This dynamism, the special nature of the Vietnamese, if only unencumbered, will drive economic growth. Nevertheless, Harvie and Tran have written a book that will be helpful to readers who know very little about Vietnam and regional influences. It articulates well many of the issues and forces that contributed to Vietnam's transition and will continue to drive Vietnam's economy into the next millennium.

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Merchants and Migrants: Ethnicity and Trade Among Yunnanese Chinese in Southeast Asia. By ANN MAXWELL HILL. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Southeast Asia Studies, 1998. 178 pp. \$32.00 (cloth); \$20.00 (paper).

Recent studies of Chinese diaspora communities have made various contributions to a growing literature on translocal and transnational contexts of identity. While some may indicate that the disjuncture of place and identity is a characteristically modern (or postmodern) predicament, Ann Maxwell Hill's account of the Yunnanese Chinese in mainland Southeast Asia charts some of the region's systemically