

Abstracts of Articles

“Music in Nineteenth Century Java: A Precursor to the Twentieth Century” by Margaret J. Kartomi

Only recently has it become possible to attempt to reconstruct a history of Javanese music in the nineteenth century. The relevant primary and secondary sources, including Javanese poems and treatises, colonial writings and scattered references in various historical tracts are only now beginning to emerge from cold storage to be published, translated, and made more widely available. This article is a preliminary attempt to draw together from them an overview of Javanese music in the nineteenth century, adopting a musicological, cultural and historical approach.

“The British and the First Japanese Move into Indo-China” by Nicholas Tarling

The German attacks on the Netherlands and France in 1940 brought the future of their Southeast Asian possessions into question. Would the Japanese, deeply involved in China and concerned about Russia, continue to respect the status quo in Southeast Asia, or would they press southwards? The fall of France in June 1940 made the Indo-China issue more pressing. The French were determined to avoid, if they could, a break in the continuity of their colonial rule: how much could or should they compromise with the Japanese? Anxious to limit Japan's advance but unable to take on major new burdens, the British afforded the Vichy regime some support in Indo-China. But neither that, nor the limited actions of the U.S., prevented the Japanese incursion into Tonkin in September.

“Aftermath of Alliance: The Wartime Legacy in Thai-Japanese Relations” by E. Bruce Reynolds

American observers were surprised and the Japanese relieved to find that at the end of World War II the Thai showed little sign of hostility toward their erstwhile allies. This paper explores factors which softened the impact of the Japanese military presence and facilitated the post-war renewal of trade and diplomatic relations between Thailand and Japan.

“The Politics of Disease and Disorder in Post-War Malaya” by T.N. Harper

This essay examines the reconstruction of the colonial state in Malaya in response to the social and economic consequences of war. It examines how relief work and social policy initiatives were employed to draw reconstructive social movements into a new pattern of colonial partnership. It argues that the tensions which resulted from this experiment were a direct way in which social crisis shaped the politics of the period.

“Civil War and Rebellion in Burma” by Josef Silverstein

Since achieving independence in 1948, Burma has known neither peace nor national unity. This paper traces the development of the resultant civil war and rebellion in Burma and brings the discussion up to date with an examination of the circumstances for, and effects of, the revolution for democracy that erupted in 1988.

“New Buddhist Movements in Thailand: An ‘Individualistic Revolution’, Reform and Political Dissonance” by J.L. Taylor

This paper is essentially a background study of two controversial urban-based Buddhist movements which appeared since the beginning of the seventies, Santi Asok and the Thammakaai Foundation. Both religious movements developed as a consequence of rapid changes in the macro-social milieu involving an articulate aspiring new Thai bourgeoisie. Both ‘urban cults’, in their own ways, are predicating a radical critique of the enduring social order; a call for collective ‘inner-worldly’ activism and ‘individualistic’ reflexive response to normative institutional paradigms.