

SOUTHEAST ASIAN

HISTORY:

THEMES & RESOURCES

What Is Southeast Asia???

Is it a tiny sub-section of a China dominated Asia?



Is it a unique
region?
How do we
understand it?



Is it possible to cover the history of *ALL* of this region in one session?

Is it possible to cover the history of even *ONE* of its *TEN* countries in one session?

A. Cultural Themes

1. Southeast Asia as an crossroads:
maritime and land + riverine
2. Region of diversity
 - a. religion – Buddhism, Islam,
Christianity & Hinduism +
animistic base

b. linguistic groups

(Malay-Polynesian, Thai-Lao,
Vietnamese, Mon-Khmer,
Burmese, Chinese, Hindi, +
lesser languages as well as
wide knowledge of English)

c. external cultural influences

- 1.) earliest = Indian (religion
Hinduism & Buddhism,
esp. Theravada and ideas
of statecraft)
- 2.) Islamic = India & Arabian
peninsula

3.) Chinese = Confucianism
for social & political values
& religion, esp. Mahayana
Buddhism

4.) West = Christianity,
political organization &
ideals such as democracy

3. Geographic – mainland

- a. mountains & river systems =
impact on ethno-linguistic
diversity
- b. river flood plains = wet rice
agriculture – Thailand as a
world producer

- c. ability to build and sustain large state apparatus of palaces, irrigation systems & temple complexes
- d. powerful central states and imperial armies for wars with neighbors

4. Geographic – Island

- a. open shallow waters for easy communication & less ethno-linguistic variation
- b. few & small flood plains for rice production – root crops and sea food diet

- c. relatively fewer architectural landmarks – Borobadur and Prambanan in central Java
- d. maritime empires based on trade and control of waters not land and people
- e. few strong dynastic states as political power is fluid

5. Dominant cultural traits –
whole region
 - a. crossroads region is very
open to cultural adoption –
SYNCRETIC
 - b. family kinship structure –
bilateral → important
implications for women

- 1.) areas of impact = divorce, inheritance, residence post-marriage, education, work outside the house, etc.)
- 2.) contrast with patrilineal kinship societies e.g. China

c. fictive kinship

- 1.) via marriage sponsorships,
- 2.) friend groups of long lasting status
- 3.) builds on family network
- 4.) implications for business, government, & military

B. Historical Themes

1. Crossroads region

a. linkages with many other regions and cultures – trade & ideas

b. as a syncretic culture major religions and philosophies find a home

- c. Southeast Asians adopt but also transform cultural borrowings
- d. fit world history patterns of colonial contact, to imperial era defeat, to increasing political sophistication & post-war independence

e. resistance to other foreign
domination

1) Vietnam vs. China

2) Vietnam & Javanese vs.
Mongols

3) WW II & Japan

4) ASEAN as Cold War
alternative

f. intra-regional wars limited to
pre-colonial era – current
conflicts indirect

1.) 1960s Indonesia's
“Konfrontasi” vs. Malaysia
“irregular” guerrillas

- 2.) Philippines vs. Malaysia
over Sabah – use of
special ops & surrogates
- 3.) Vietnam's occupation of
Cambodia a residual of the
American War in Vietnam

C. Teaching Resources

What's in my file "Rodell Southeast Asian History"?

1. Harry J. Benda & John A. Larkin, *The World of Southeast Asia* – historical readings 331 p. (when, what, and what not + plans for the future)

2. “World History Essay on
Southeast Asia” MS Word Doc
(*Bulletin of the World History
Association* special section on
Asia in World History)

3. Milton Osborne's "What Is Southeast Asia"

- a. background to recent recognition of the existence of the region
- b. comes up with a cultural approach

4. Power Point lectures from my
“Modern Southeast Asia”
 - a. Cultural Southeast Asia
 - b. Early Southeast Asian States
- Maps
 - c. SEA Trade & European Links
to WW II

d. The Overseas Chinese

e. Colonial Econ & Soc

Transformations

f. Nationalism & Social Change

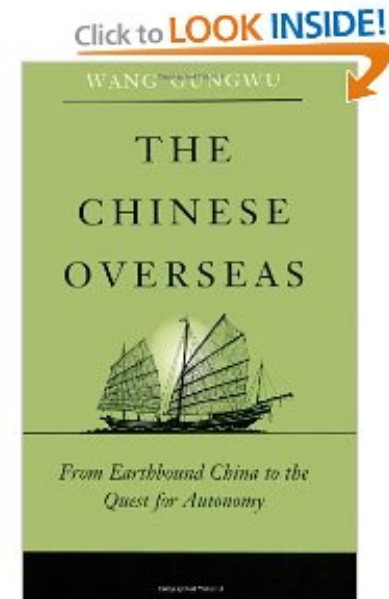
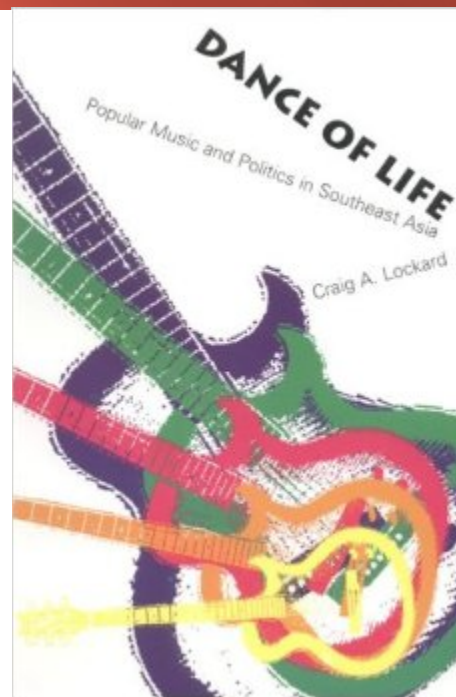
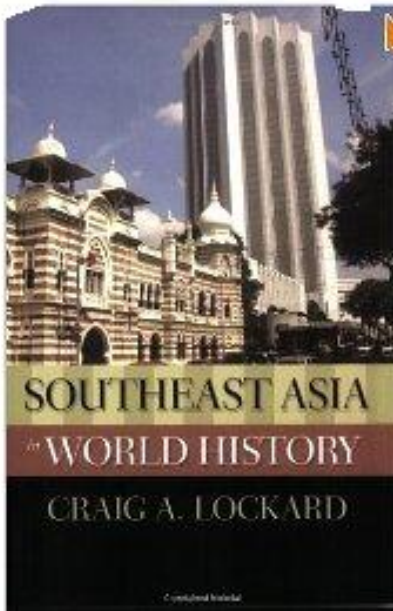
g. WW II as Catalyst

5. Bonus Power Point – India

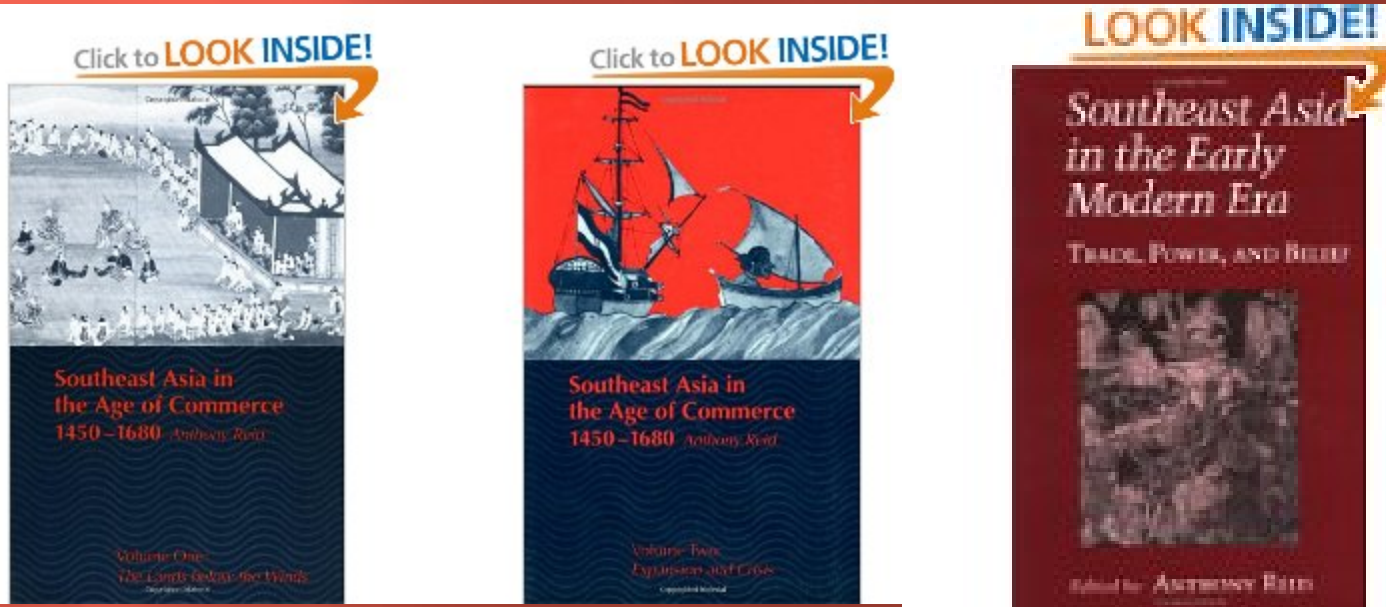
Southeast Asia Connection

D. Book Recommendations

General Textbooks & Monographs



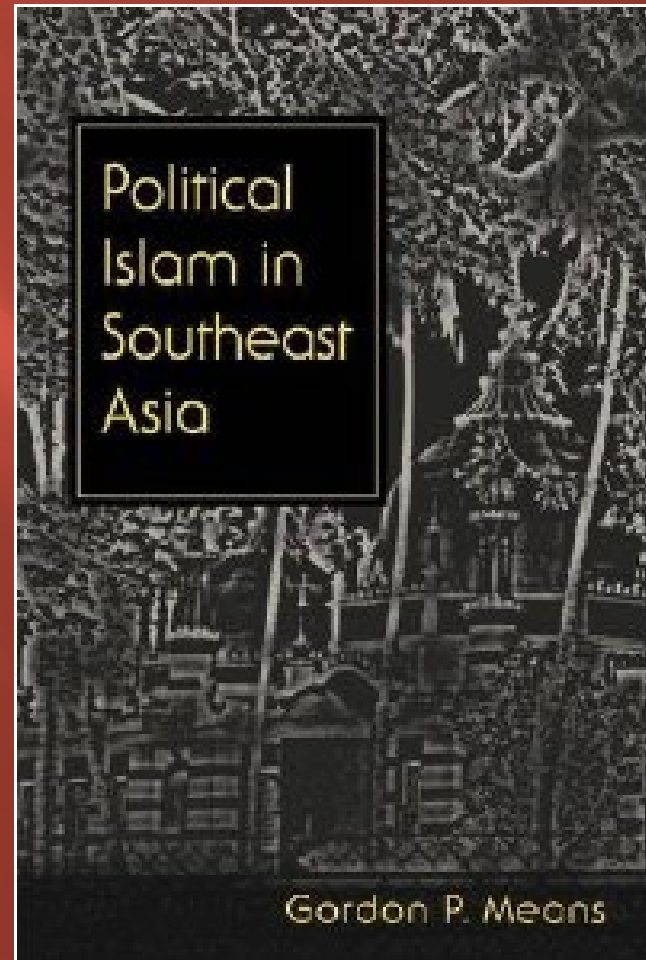
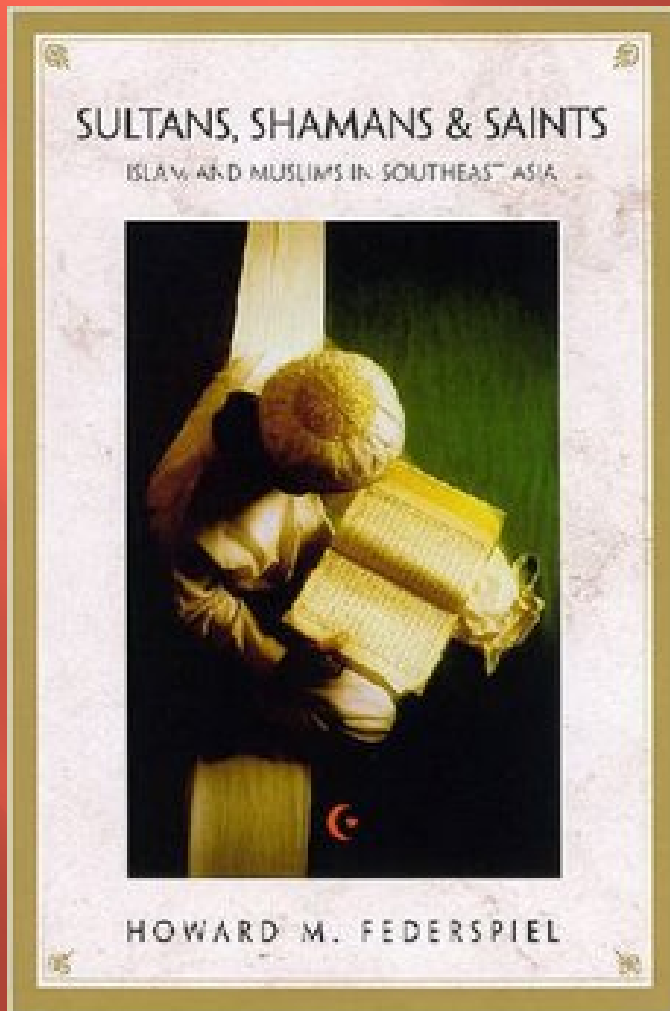
General Textbooks & Monographs (cont.)



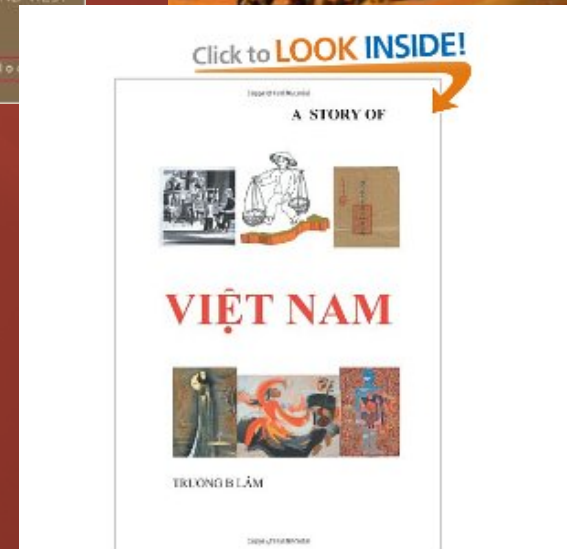
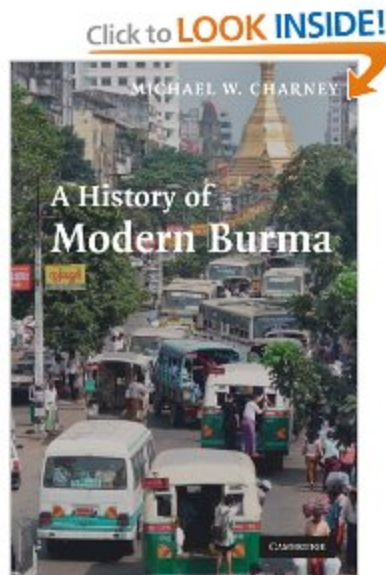
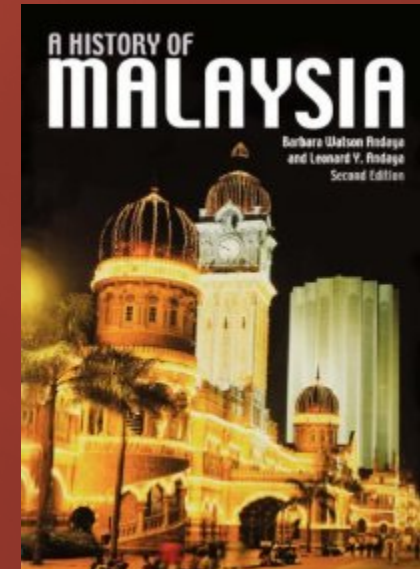
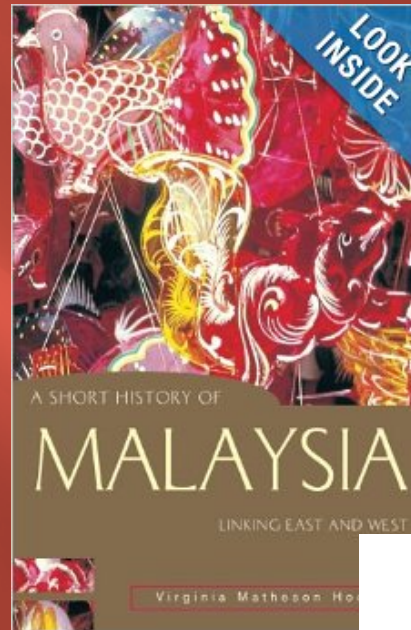
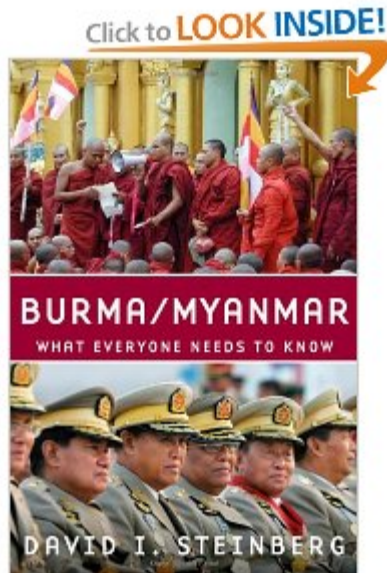
Islam in Southeast Asia

Howard Federspiel

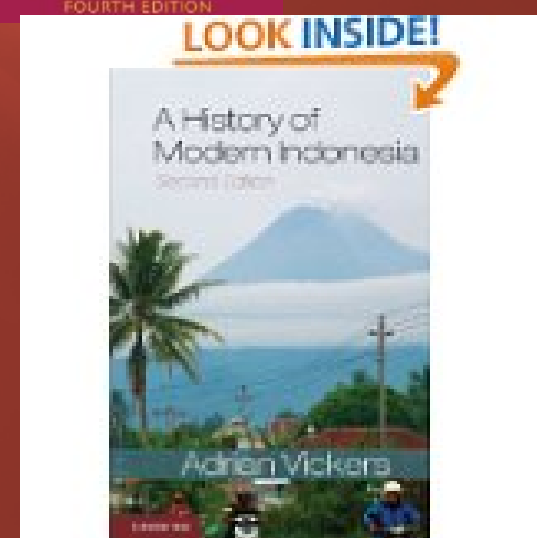
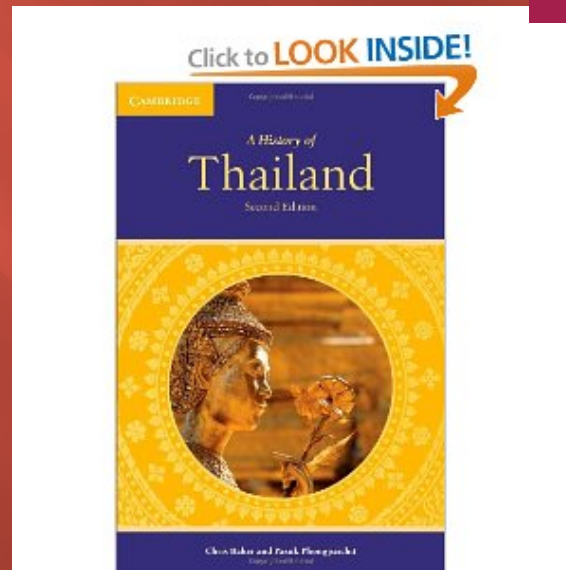
Gordon Means



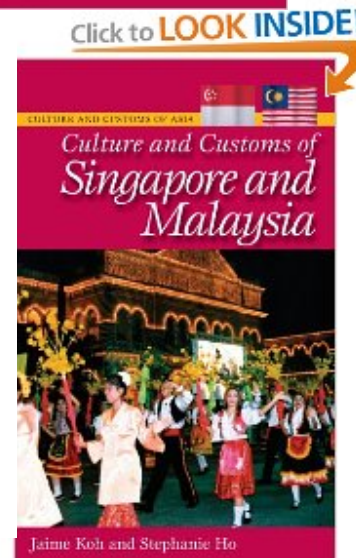
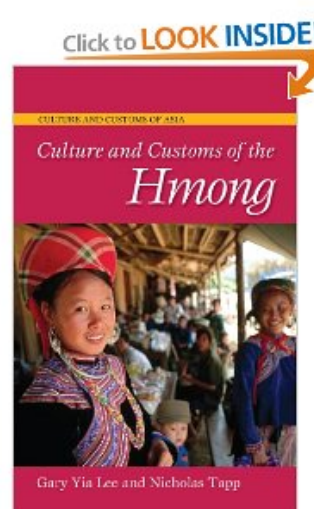
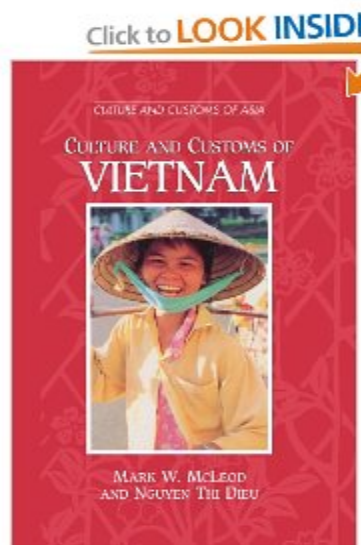
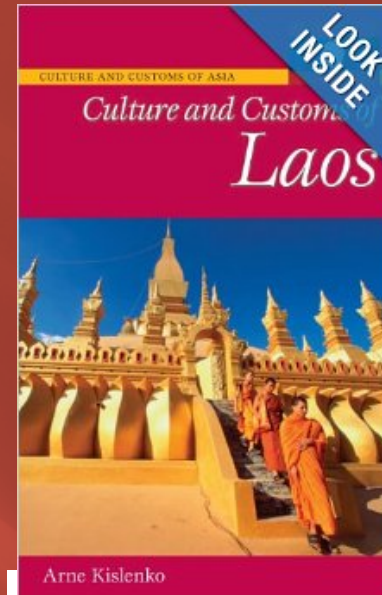
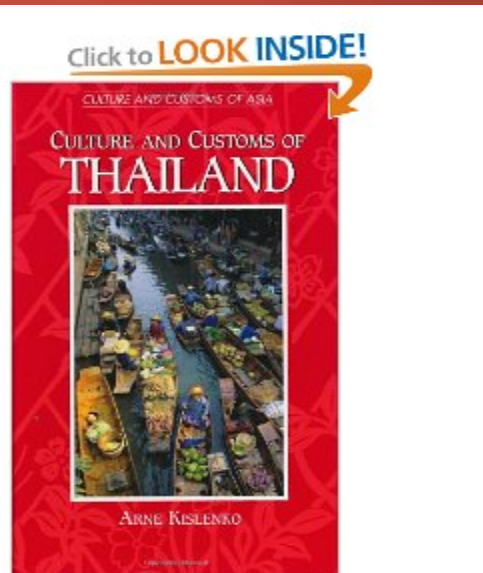
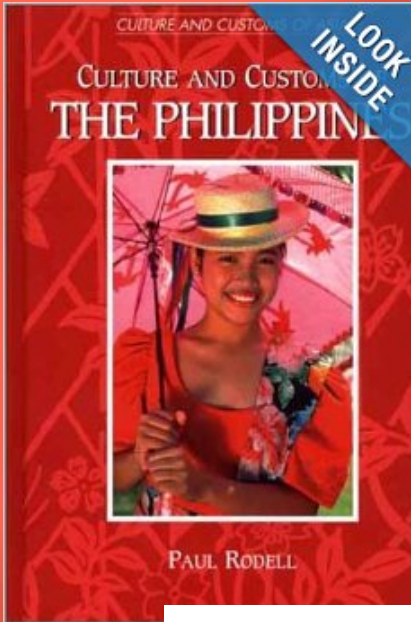
Country Specific History Textbooks (1)



Country Specific History Textbooks (2)



Culture & Customs Series



E. On-Line Resources

1. Asia Times:

<http://www.atimes.com/>

2. East-West Center

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/>

and

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/publications/publications-home>

3. *Education About Asia* – Assn.
for Asian Studies (US)

<https://www.asian-studies.org/EAA/index.htm>

4. The Newsletter – International
Institute for Asian Studies
(Leiden, The Netherlands)

www.iiias.nl

5. World History Connected –
World History Association, on-
line journal and teaching
resource

<http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/>