Colonial Experiences and Their Legacies in Southeast Asia

Institute Bibliography

Each of the presenters for the Institute is being asked to provide readings that will provide background or articulate themes that they will be addressing in each of their sessions. These readings will be posted to an Institute website for electronic access and should be accessible by mid-July.

Prior to coming to Honolulu, it would be useful to get a general historical overview of Southeast Asia. Here are some suggestions. The books by Reid and Owen have a deeper historical base, but also look closely at colonialism and its aftermath.

- Dayley, Robert and Clark D. Neher, Southeast Asia in the New International Era. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2013. This goes through country by country, and in successive revised editions has been a standard text for many years.
- Kingsbury, Damien. Politics in Contemporary Southeast Asia: Authority, Democracy and Political Change. London: Routledge, 2017. This also goes through country by country, and is a very recent coverage.
- Owen, Norman, ed. The Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian History. London: Routledge, 2014. This may be in your library. It contains short chapters on a range of topics, including a long section on political history, that includes colonialism and the aftermath.

For your flights over, you might consider one of the following:

- Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s Buru Quartet, is a stunning set of four novels, composed in prison, that span the colonial, independence, Japanese occupation and post-colonial nation-building eras of Indonesia, with keen attention to the tensions between normative ideals and lived realities. The best of the four novels is This Earth of Mankind, which has been assigned for the institute.
- George Orwell’s Burmese Days, first published in 1934, reflects the personal and disturbing experience of Orwell himself, who spend 5 years as a police officer in Burma in the waning days of colonialism
- Dumb Luck: A Novel, by Vũ Trong Phùng, is a bitter satire set in Vietnam during the late colonial era that follows the absurd life of a street-smart vagabond and charts how class and gender relations are radically transformed by the growth of colonial capitalism.
- No Harvest but a Thorn, by Shahnon Ahmad. This post-independence era novel is an exposition of peasant struggle, a gruesome celebration of the rural Malay livelihood and its associated pitfalls. Seen in the historical context of a newly independent Malaysia and contemporaneous discourses around ‘modernization’ and ‘underdevelopment’, the anxiety that characterizes the novel’s tone takes on a broader significance.

**Short General Bibliography on Modern Southeast Asia**


**Culture and the Arts in Southeast Asia**

**On Literature**

Bodden, Michael H.. ‘Seno Gumira Ajidarma and fictional resistance to an authoritarian state in 1990s Indonesia,’ *Indonesia* 68, October 1999


Salleh, Muhammad Haji. “Worlds over Borders: Trafficking Literatures in Southeast Asia.” *Asiatic* 3, 2 (December 2009), 1-24. [Traces the paths of literary works that cross linguistic and cultural borders and how they have been adopted into the receiving cultures, influencing a range of literary performances and related arts.


__________. *Situated Testimonies: Dread and Enchantment in an Indonesian Literary Archive*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2013 [The Indonesian writer Pramoedya Ananta Toer made a distinction between a “downstream” literary reality and an “upstream” historical reality. He suggested that literature has an effect on the upstream flow of history and that it can in fact change history. Laurie Sears illuminates this process by considering a selection of Dutch Indies and Indonesian literary works that span the twentieth century and beyond and by showing how various authors help retell and remodel history]


Yamada, Teri Shaffer, ed. *Virtual Lotus: Modern Fiction of Southeast Asia*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press, 2002. [includes translations of short stories from all over Southeast Asia, with a short introduction to the literary history of each country that shows the interaction between each writer and their sociopolitical influences]

-----.* Modern Short Fiction of Southeast Asia: A Literary History*. Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies, 2009)

*On Music*


*On Art*


Clark, John. *Modern Asian Art*. Honolulu: University of Hawai`i Press, 1998. [this book is organized according to themes rather than countries, and Chapter 10 provides insights on similarities and differences in the way national themes (war, revolution, heroism) are visually represented]


**Civil Society**


Lee Hock Guan, ed. *Civil Society in Southeast Asia.* Singapore: ISEAS, 2004


**Electronic Media and Authority**


Lim, Merlyna. “Cyber-Urban Activism and Political Change in Indonesia.” *Eastbound* 2006. [a short article by one of the upcoming scholars in this field]


**Religion and Society**


**On Buddhism:**


Swearer, Donald. *The Buddhist World of Southeast Asia*. SUNY Press, 2010 [a classic in the field, a new edition]


**On Islam:**


Fealy, Greg, and Virginia Hooker, eds.*Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia: A Contemporary


On Christianity:


**Left Wing Movements**


___________ *Vietnamese Colonial Republican: The Political Vision of Vu Trong Phung*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013. [A comprehensive study of VietnamÔs greatest and most controversial 20th century writer who died tragically in 1939 at the age of 28. Vu Trong Phung is known for a remarkable collection of politically provocative novels and sensational works of non-fiction reportage that were banned by the communist state from 1960 to 1986]

**On Development, the Environment and Ethnic Minorities**


Harris, Paul G. *Confronting Environmental Change in East and Southeast Asia: Eco-Plitics, Foreign Policy and Sustainable Development*. London; Sterling: Earthscan, 2005.


