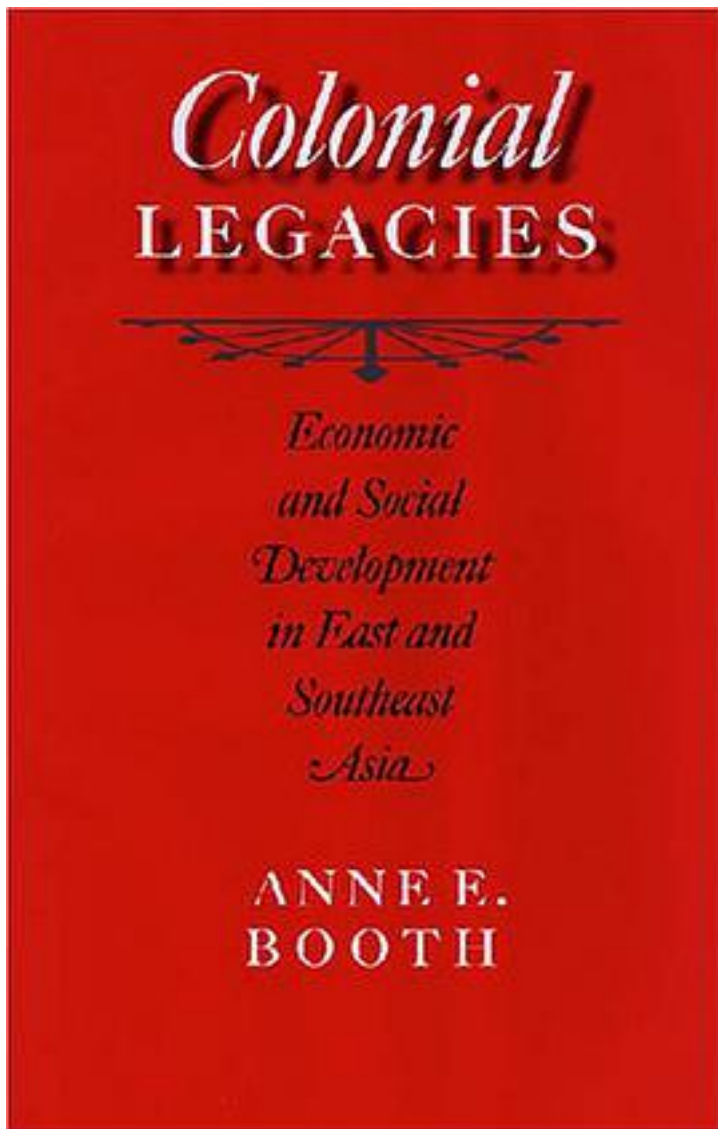


Colonial Legacies



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It is well known that Taiwan and South Korea, both former Japanese colonies, achieved rapid growth and industrialization after 1960. The performance of former European and American colonies (Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines) has been less impressive. Some scholars have attributed the difference to better infrastructure and greater access to education in Japan's colonies. Anne Booth examines and critiques such arguments in this ambitious comparative study of economic development in East and Southeast Asia from the beginning of the twentieth century until the 1960s.

Booth takes an in-depth look at the nature and consequences of colonial policies for a wide range of factors, including the growth of export-oriented agriculture and the development of manufacturing industry. She evaluates the impact of colonial policies on the growth and diversification of the market economy and on the welfare of indigenous populations. Indicators such as educational enrollments, infant mortality rates, and crude death rates are used to compare living standards across East and Southeast Asia in the 1930s. Her analysis of the impact that Japan's Greater Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere and later invasion and conquest had on the region and the living standards of its people leads to a discussion of the painful and protracted transition to independence following Japan's defeat. Throughout Booth emphasizes the great variety of economic and social policies pursued by the various colonial governments and the diversity of outcomes.

Lucidly and accessibly written, *Colonial Legacies* offers a balanced and elegantly nuanced exploration of a complex historical reality. It will be a lasting contribution to scholarship on the modern economic history of East and Southeast Asia and of special interest to those concerned with the dynamics of development and the history of colonial regimes.

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标签

经济史

SEAsia

Indonesia

Booth

评论

作者分析了东亚和东南亚国家被殖民时期的经济发展状况，总结了之前比较主流的学术观点，又提出了自己的理解。作者对于每一个国家的分析都很到位，许多学者只是研究一个地区，例如朝鲜或者印尼，而本书作者能够对东亚和东南亚基本所有被殖民过的国家地区都做出了分析和对比，实属不易。同时评估了殖民统治对这些国家战后发展的影响。本书具体分析的地方包括日本殖民时期的朝鲜和台湾，法国殖民地越南老挝，美国殖民地菲律宾，还有泰国和荷兰殖民地印尼。一个有意思的论点是，虽然殖民地经历会在一定程度上影响这些地区的经济发展，但并不是主要因素，但是能带动这些地方战后经济发展最主要的驱动力，是该地区统治者是否将经济发展作为首要目标。凡是作为首要目标的，当地基本经济都实现了快速发展。

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书评

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