

Abstracts of Articles

“Redefining Criminality: Gambling and Financial Expediency in the Colonial Philippines, 1764–1898” by GREG BANKOFF

This article examines the popularity of cockfighting and other forms of gambling in the Spanish Philippines, the extent of official ambivalence towards these sports, and the motives behind colonial policy. Once defined as deviant behaviour and treated as criminal, gambling was progressively legalized during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as the state profited from such activities.

“The Control of ‘Sacred’ Space: Conflicts Over the Chinese Burial Grounds in Colonial Singapore, 1880–1930” by BRENDA S.A. YEOH

This paper examines the negotiation of power over the urban landscape between the municipal authorities and the Chinese communities in colonial Singapore over the question on whether burial places could be considered “sacred” and hence inalienable and immune to changes demanded by the dictates of western urban planning. It focuses on the conflicting discourses which developed over the nature and location of Chinese burial grounds, the strategies of negotiation employed by the authorities and the Chinese communities, and the resultant impact on remaking the “sacred” geography of colonial Singapore.

“The Dialectics of Village and State in Modern Thailand” by JEREMY KEMP

The traditional Thai village as an autonomous and corporate local community is a myth whose origins are located in nineteenth century Western social theory. The paper examines the dynamics of relations between local patterns of social organization and the state with particular reference to the ideology of community and the manner in which it is expressed and manipulated.

“The OSS in Laos: The 1945 Raven Mission and American Policy” by ARTHUR J. DOMMEN and GEORGE W. DALLEY

In September 1945 the U.S. OSS headquarters in Kunming sent a mission to Laos for POW relief work. The mission’s report and accompanying notes illuminate the attitudes of its members and help explain the conflict their presence gave rise to with respect to French and British operatives in Laos at the time, and suggest they were acting at variance with official U.S. policy.

“Some Research Notes on Living Conditions and Perceptions among Indonesian Students in Cairo” by MONA ABAZA

The aim of this paper is to examine the perceptions and aspirations of the Indonesian students who are studying at al-Azhar University in Cairo. Al-Azhar University-Mosque is one of the oldest centres of learning of orthodox Islam in the Muslim world. It receives every year thousands of foreign students. This paper

attempts to shed some light on the living conditions of the Indonesian students in Cairo. It also draws attention to the established networks which contribute to sending students to Cairo.

“Causes of Import Penetration from the Pacific Basin Newly Industrializing Countries into the United States” by WON K. PAIK

The present study examines the Pacific Basin Newly Industrializing Countries' (NICs') import penetrations — those of Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan — into the United States for the time period between 1967 and 1985. By following the two major theoretical perspectives of international political economy (the neo-classical and statist perspectives), the study develops the models and the causes of international trade. Each model of international trade is tested empirically to assess its adequacy in explaining the NIC's penetration into the United States' markets. The study concludes with policy implications for both the United States and the NICs which allow them to anticipate and adapt to a rapidly changing international trade system.