

BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY REVIEW

NGUYỄN KHẮC HUỠNH.
Vietnamese diplomat – Perspective and Contemplation. H.: National Politics Publishing House, 2011, 287 p., Vb 50089.

Nearly 70 years since its advent, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made significant contributions to the development and protection of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The book is a compilation of articles, researches, and discussions. It takes an analytical approach and evaluates important global historic events that were linked to Vietnamese diplomacy over the past 70 years. The author focuses on shedding light on Vietnamese diplomatic traditions and shares valuable diplomatic lessons that our country can benefit from.

Those are the issues and events in relation to the paths and policies set forth by the Party and the State, which cover such aspects and the Ho Chi Minh art of diplomacy; Vietnam's seizing of the opportunity that led to the success of the August revolution; the Geneva convention; the Vietnamese fortitude in the face of American opposition; the negotiation strategies employed at to realize the Paris convention; foreign relations policies during the reform; valuable lessons on combining national

defense with economics and foreign relations...

HOÀI PHÚC

NGUYỄN VĂN MẠNH (editor in chief). **The Government's role in social development and in managing social development during Vietnam's period of renewal.** H.: National politics Publishing House, 2011, 465 p., Vb 49851.

In the process of societal growth and the management thereof, the government plays a pivotal role as the formulator and implementer of policies, laws, strategies, and national programs for societal development. The book provides an argumentative basis upon which the government can strengthen its role against the background of reform in our country. The book comprises 3 parts.

The first part presents the argumentative basis upon which lies the role of the government in societal growth and the management thereof against the background of reform in our country. The author elaborates on the concepts, contents, and basic features of societal development and the management thereof; the perspective and policies of the Party; the perception of the government's role and experience in strengthening said role in a number of countries, including Vietnam.

The second part deals with the government's actual fulfilment of its role from angles and evaluates the government's performance, citing achievements as well as areas that could use improvement.

The third part points out a number of changing trends which need to be taken into account. A number of consistent solutions are proposed that aim to meet the demand for revolutionary changes to the government's role in social development and the management thereof during the period lasting from 2011 to 2020.

HỒNG HẠNH

LÊ TÂM ĐẮC. The movement to promote Buddhism in Northern Vietnam (1924 - 1954). H.: National politics Publishing House, 2011, 340 p., Vb 50093.

As the 19th century gave way to the 20th century, many Asian countries, not excluding Vietnam, saw a movement to promote Buddhism. The birth and growth of this movement was seen as a "Buddhist revolution", which modernized the religion. In the north of Vietnam, this called for unity, teaching Buddhist ways, clamping down on superstition, tackling selfishness... Though it still has its limitations, the movement to promote Buddhism has made great impact; Buddhism has become further tied to the interests of the people over time.

The book takes an analytical stance on the growth of Buddhism between 1924 and 1954, a period during which the

religion was being heavily promoted, particularly in the North, giving birth in 1934 to the Northern Buddhist Alliance. The book dwells on the birth, characteristics, and impact of the movement as it then occurred in the north of our country. From this information, the reader can, with ease, picture Vietnamese society at that time and the significant contributions made by monks, Buddhists, and Buddhist organizations. The book is made up of 3 chapters.

Chapter I: The birth of the movement to promote Buddhism in the northern Vietnam (1924-1954).

Chapter II: Overview of the movement to promote Buddhism in northern Vietnam (1924-1954).

Chapter III: Characteristics and impact of the movement to promote Buddhism in northern Vietnam (1924-1954).

MA.

HỒ SĨ QUÝ. Social progress: some issues in East Asia and Southeast Asia development models. H.: Wisdom Publishing House, 2012, 274 p., Vv 11611.

Regardless of ethnicity, social development is an imperative trend which cannot be prevented. But a particular community, area may face difficulties, setbacks, or even regression in undergoing development. Thus, vigilance must be adopted when evaluating the extent of social development.

The book is comprised of 3 chapters that aim to analyze the aforementioned problem in both theory and practice. The growth, development, sustainable development, and betterment of society are mentioned: the basic concepts (chapter 1) and details of the East Asia and the Southeast Asia models, the direct and indirect reasons for the rapid growth of East Asia, the limitations and obstacles to the growth of Southeast Asia, experience and valuable lessons,... in relation to the development models in East Asia and Southeast Asia (chapter 2). This information is extrapolated so that lessons can be applied to Vietnam (chapter 3).

HÀ AN

Nguyễn Thị Huế. **New trends in the cultures of the mountainous peoples of northern Vietnam.** H.: National University Publishing House, 2011, 335 p., Vv 11640.

In recent decades, Vietnam has been industrializing, modernizing, and opening its doors to its foreign peers. Hence, Vietnamese culture has been undergoing change in order to catch up with the times. To reaffirm the uniqueness of Vietnamese culture, and to analyze cultural changes, the book focuses on the northern mountainous region of Vietnam. The book includes four parts.

The first part explores culture by explaining cultural concepts, traits, cultures that are unique to certain regions and peoples, as well as mentioning the special features of the

cultures found in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam.

The second part elaborates on the traditional cultures of the peoples inhabiting this northern mountainous region as well as the changing trends in those cultures.

The third part elaborates on the folk cultures of the peoples inhabiting this northern mountainous region as well as the changing trends in those cultures.

The fourth part talks about linguistics, literature, and traditional arts of the northern peoples are how they have been changing.

KHÁNH CHI

NGUYỄN KẾ TUẤN. **Vietnamese Economy in 2011: Clamping down on inflation and stabilizing the macroeconomy.** H.: National Economics University, 2012, 278 p., Vv 11628.

It was in 2011 that Vietnam first implemented the 2011-2015 Socioeconomic development plan and the 2011-2020 Socioeconomic development strategy. The successful implementation of 2011's plan was especially meaningful to laying the foundation for encouraging the fulfilment of The 2011-2015 Socioeconomic development plan and The 2011-2020 Socioeconomic development strategy. However, the domestic and global economy are both changing in unforeseeable ways. Many countries, including Vietnam, make it their number one priority to clamp down on inflation and to stabilize their

macroeconomies. Under these circumstances, assessing the performance of goals for 2011 involves analyzing inflation control, macroeconomic stability, and social welfare. Lessons learned in 2011 would prove to be valuable for future years.

The book is made up of five parts. The first four evaluate the performance of 2011 economic growth goals and identifies achievements as well as shortcomings in relation to such performance. The first four parts also assess the implementation of an especially critical and urgent 2011 duty, which is to curb inflation, stabilize the macroeconomy, and address the trade deficit and the issue of overspending. The fifth part proposes a number of solutions to tackle inflation and achieve macroeconomic stability.

AN AN

PHẠM DUY ĐỨC, VŨ PHƯƠNG HẬU (co-editors in chief). **Studying the construction and development of industrial culture in Hanoi.** H.: Information culture Publishing House & Cultural institute, 2012, 320 p., Vb 50114.

Studying the construction and development of industrial culture in Hanoi in the period of promoting industrialization, modernization is a cross-industry problem that carries great meaning. It contributes to socio-economic growth as well as to preserving the qualities of Vietnamese culture. Three chapters are included.

The first chapter deals with the perception of industrialization and experience gained from industrialization as it took place in other countries.

Chapter 2 assesses the actual progress of industrial culture from 1990 to now. The book sheds light on the roles of industrial culture, industrial press, industrial radio and television, industrial photography, industrial publishing, industrial media... in Hanoi. It also provides a general assessment of the actual states of these industries in Hanoi.

The third chapter provides a general projection of the growth direction of industrial culture; proposes methods to develop industrial culture in order to preserve and promote the qualities of the culture of the capital.

VA.

TRẦN QUỐC VƯỢNG. **Studying agricultural culture in Vietnam.** H.: Culture-Information Publishing House & Cultural Institute, 2012, 261 p., Vb 50120.

The book is a compilation of 14 articles that are the product of many years of researching Vietnamese agricultural culture. The articles vary in nature; some are in-depth studies, some are interviews, some are discussions... They all paint a broad picture of agricultural culture in Vietnam as it evolved throughout history.

The picture of agricultural culture contains traits of agricultural ecosystems of old, overviews of agricultural production in Vietnam during the period from the 2nd

century BC to the 10th century AD. There are also in-depth analyses of a multitude of factors of Vietnamese agricultural culture, rural culture from a micro ecosystem perspective...

The author also explores ancient Vietnamese villages, craft villages, and the unique traits of rural agriculture against the background of the industrialization and modernization of the country.

HOÀI PHÚC

MONIQUE CHEMILLIER – GENDREAU. **Sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly Islands.** H.: National Politics Publishing House, 2011, 342 p., Vv 11390.

The Paracel and Spratly Islands are sacred lands belonging to Vietnam. The government has exercised its ownership rights over these islands throughout the ages. The exercise of these rights is done legally, continually,

And in compliance with international practices. It is acknowledged and supported by many countries, international organizations, and scholars all over the world.

The book is the product of objective research of Paracel and Spratly Islands carried out by a famous French political scientist and lawyer. From her own personal perspective, the author analyzed the positions of the stakeholders of the dispute over these islands, provided solutions based on dispute resolution mechanisms and the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea.

Those are the main contents of the book, which includes 4 main chapters: I/General anticipations on the Paracel and Spratly Islands; II/Initial acquisition of ownership; III/Subsequent events; IV/Conclusions and basis for dispute resolution.

PHẠM NGUYỄN