

BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY REVIEW

TRẦN THU THẢO, VŨ ĐÌNH QUYỀN (compilers). **Panoramic View of Vietnam's Economic Potential until 2010 and Orientation until 2020.** H.: Labour Publishing House, 2008, 658 pages, Vv 8074.

Vietnam embarked on the implementation of the socioeconomic economic development 5-year plan (2006-2010) in the context of big and interlacing opportunities, advantages, disadvantages, challenges. In such a situation, grasping strategic orientations, plans for socioeconomic development of Vietnam until 2010 and orientations until 2020 are of great significance for people from all walks of life, especially agencies, organizations, businesses and entrepreneurs of Vietnam. These are also the contents that the book entitled "Panoramic View of Vietnam's Economic Potential until 2010 and Orientation until 2020" shall bring to readers. The book consists of three parts:

Part 1 brings forward orientations, duties, plans for socioeconomic development of Vietnam until 2010.

Part 2 gives a brief presentation of the 64 provinces and cities of Vietnam in terms of natural conditions, resources, economic potentials, comparative advantages and the main socioeconomic development objectives during 2006-2010.

Part 3 describes strategies, planning, schemes, programs for the development of some key economic sectors until 2010 and orientations until 2020.

HÀ CHI

NGUYỄN QUANG HÙNG. **Catholicism of Vietnam during the Nguyễn Dynasty (1802-1883).** H.: Religion Publishing House, 2007, 400 pages, Vb 45598.

The relations between Catholicism and Ethnic Group in Vietnam are characterized by their own peculiarities. In Vietnam, there have been very few religious clashes so far, yet the introduction of Catholicism to Vietnam brought about the change in the traditional relationship between religion and the State in general and between the State and the Catholic Church in particular, especially in the relationship between the State and the Church.

To help readers learn about the history of Vietnam's Catholicism, particularly the Catholicism of Vietnam during the Nguyễn Dynasty, from Gia Long to Tự Đức (1802-1883), author Nguyễn Quang Hưng analyzes, elucidating the missionary process from the pre-insurrection period until the end of the 20th century; recreating the politico-socio-economic-cultural and ideological backgrounds of Vietnam

during the conflict between the Trịnh's and the Nguyễn's, missionary schools; outlining the activities of some typical personalities such as Alexandre de Rhodes (in the 17th century), and analyzing, explaining the attitudes of Trịnh Lord, Nguyễn Lord and the Tây Sơn brothers towards Catholicism. At the same time, the author also delineates the establishment of Vietnam's Church during the 17th-18th centuries in both the South and the North; analyzing the missionary activities, the nature of "the ceremonial issue" during the dynasties of Trịnh-Nguyễn, Tây Sơn and Nguyễn; clearing up the politico-cultural aspects in the relationship between the Nguyễn Dynasty and Catholicism; analyzing the causes and effects of Nguyễn Emperors' policies towards Catholicism.

At the end of the book are references, appendixes about the population of Catholics (the important data is cited in the work), along with the annex of the Versailles Concord signed on November 28, 1787 in French and a Vietnamese version.

LÊ HIỆP

ĐINH TRỌNG THỊNH, LÊ THỊ THÚY VÂN. Vietnam in the East Asian Monetary Cooperation. H.: National Political Publishing House, 2008, 266 pages, Vb 45800.

Ever since the Asian monetary and financial crisis in 1997, the question of monetary cooperation in the East Asian region has become essential and pressing to the East Asian countries including

Vietnam. Before this task, what is Vietnam's policy and solution so as to strengthen the cooperation? These are the core issues that the book's authors aim at.

In chapters 1 and 2, the authors raise the necessity and background of the monetary cooperation in the East Asian region.

Chapter 3 points out the experiences of EU's monetary cooperation, especially the idea of establishing a common EU currency – the grounds for finding way to cooperate East Asian currencies.

Chapters 4 and 5 concentrate on research of roadmaps for monetary cooperation in the East Asian region, including the short-term, mid-term schedules. Apart from that, the authors also bring up the idea of the common EU currency in the process of cooperation.

Chapter 6 provides analyses and judgments on the prospects of monetary cooperation in the East Asian region. In addition, the authorities also touch upon Vietnam's policies in its efforts to participate in East Asian monetary cooperation.

Chapter 7 puts forward solutions so as to strengthen the monetary cooperation in the East Asian region, including the solutions to the region, solution to Vietnam as well as some specific solutions to the areas of commerce-investment, finance-money.

At the end of the book are some conclusions and appendixes.

HOÀI YÊN

NGUYỄN HOÀI VĂN (chief author). **The development of Vietnam's political thoughts during the 10th - 15th centuries.** H.: National Political Publishing House, 2008, 194 pages, Vb 45802.

History of Vietnam's political thoughts is a broad special subject of extremely important and pressing for the formation of Vietnam's political science in general and politics in particular today. Researching, learning about the development history of Vietnam's political thoughts in a systematic way so as to have proper orientations, inherit the quintessence of the traditional political thoughts treasure of our ancestors so as to serve political activities in the reality of building and developing the country at present are of very great importance. The book provides readers with information about a period in the development history of Vietnam's political thoughts – the 10th – 15th centuries. The book consists of three chapters.

Chapter I concentrates on describing the formation of Vietnam's political thoughts from the view on cultural-historical origin, from the aboriginal East Asian cultural tradition of Vietnam and the Sino-Vietnamese cultural interactions over a millennium's time under the Chinese domination until the formation and development of Vietnam's endogenous political thoughts on the ancient Văn Lang-Âu Lạc cultural and civilization foundation and the basic contents of Vietnam's political thoughts during the 20th century.

Chapter II analyzes the period of *“Three Religions getting along together”* and the *development of Confucian political*

thoughts during the Lý – Trần Dynasties (the 11th-14th centuries).

In chapter III, basing on the political thoughts analysis by Nguyễn Trãi (1380-1442) and political thoughts by Lê Thánh Tông (1442-1497), the author reflects *the dramatic development of Vietnam's political thoughts during the Anterior Le Dynasty (in the 15th century).*

HÀ THANH

VÕ ĐẠI LƯỢC. **Vietnam's Economy is Changing and Developing.** H.: “Thế giới” Publishing House, 2007, 757 pages, Vb 45403.

Proceeding from the view in positive and negative aspects of the economy and leading to proposals for renovation of economic policies as well as solutions to economic development issues, the author gathers together some of his articles during 1987-2006 to concentrate mainly on the theme of Vietnam's economic renovation and development, with three major subdivisions corresponding to the contents of the three part of the books.

Part I (the first issue subdivision) touches upon the international background and external economic policies of Vietnam. The author analyzes and judges the issues of globalization and international integration, in association with Vietnam's external policies. Besides, the author also assesses external economy situation and solutions of Vietnam as well as foreign direct investment situation in the process of industrialization and modernization of the country.

Part II (the second issue subdivision) comprises the writings about Vietnam's economic renovation, including an article on Vietnam's economic renovation

towards socialist-oriented market economy; Vietnam's economic development strategy till 2010, renovation orientations of Vietnam's economic policies; Vietnam's economic development issues; socialist-oriented economic development; building a self-control, independent economy; fighting against inflation, and on exchange rates in Vietnam.

Part III (the third issue subdivision) comprises his writings analyzing, judging the situation and solutions to Vietnam's economy in 1998, 2004, and 2005 - the years with outstanding issues.

TRẦN THÀNH

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE – VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY LIBRARY. The Role of Vietnam in the ASEAN. H.: News Agency, 2007, 413 pages, Vb 4522.

Vietnam officially became a member of the ASEAN on July 28, 1995. Ever since, Vietnam is always participating actively, positively in and making a good many great contributions to the development of this organization and this has been recognized by other member countries. The book entitled *Vietnam's Role in the*

ASEAN was published on the occasion of the 40th founding anniversary (August 8, 1967 – August 8, 2007) and the 12th year of Vietnam's joining this organization (July 28, 1995-July 28, 2007). The book comprises two main chapters:

Chapter I provides systematic information about the ASEAN such as its birth, some datum points of development, organizational structure and rules of operation; areas of cooperation; at the same time further analyzes prospects for development of the ASEAN with other countries in the region (the ASEAN with China, Japan, South Korea, India).

Chapter II analyzes and outlines the role played by Vietnam in the ASEAN, its integration in the ASEAN; significance, role of Vietnam when joining the ASEAN; the role played by Vietnam in the ASEAN in the areas of politics, security, diplomacy, economy, culture; especially Vietnam's role in prospects for the development of the ASEAN with other countries and regions.

KHÁNH CHI