

BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY REVIEW

NGUYỄN HỮU THỨC. **Beliefs, religions and folk festivals in Hà Tây Province.** H: Culture – Information Publishing House & Institute of Culture, 2008, 291 p., Vb. 46034.

Hà Tây province is an ancient land, and through the nation's history of thousands of years of foundation and defense, countless cultural vestiges of different ages are still preserved and upheld in the province's villages. In Hà Tây there are still practices of the beliefs that worship organs of reproduction and genies of nature ... Besides, Hà Tây is also the land of numerous folk festivals. The book is about beliefs, religions and folk festivals typical of the people of Hà Tây.

The book comprises three chapters.

Chapter I, *Folk beliefs in Hà Tây*, discusses the Viet's age-old beliefs that are still preserved therein like the beliefs in organs of reproduction, in natural genies ... (Ba Vì mountain – the place of worship of Tản Viên, the God of mountains, Hương Pagoda – with traces of the religious life of the Goddess Chúa Ba, the Tự Nhiên alluvial plain in the Red River – the place of origin of the love story between Chử Đồng Tử and Tiên Dung, the famous Hát Môn temple – a place associated with the Trưng sisters' struggle against foreign invaders, etc.)

Living on the land neighboring the old Đại La citadel, which later became the capital Thăng Long – Đông Đô – Hà

Nội, Hà Tây people soon accepted major religions from the region and around the world. In Chapter II, the author introduces *some religions in Hà Tây*, for example Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and Catholicism.

Chapter III presents folk festivals in Hà Tây like festivities from the Hùng's era, festivities to commemorate Chử Đồng Tử and Tiên Dung, procession of a tiger's hide – an ancient performance in the village of Dau Tranh, and the Buddhist pennon kite festival in Na pagoda, etc. With various rituals, performances and practices performed biannually, Hà Tây is brimful of festive air, directing the people towards the true, the good and the beautiful, and the original point of the national culture.

KHÁNH CHI

ĐÀO TRÍ ÚC, NGUYỄN NHƯ PHÁT (chief editor). **Constitutional jurisdiction and the construction of a model of constitutional jurisdiction in Vietnam.** H: the People's Police Publishing House, 2007, 272 p., Vb 46074.

In the present process of constructing a socialist state under the rule of law and a civil society, it is urgent that the demands emerging from the development realities of a market economy be legally guaranteed, that the operating efficiency of the machinery of government be enhanced, that human

rights and civil rights be ensured, and that the relations among state institutions (the National Assembly, the Government, the Court, the Supreme People's Procuracy, the Supreme People's Court...) and between the National Assembly and provincial People's Councils be tightened. The formation of mechanisms protecting and restoring constitutional order has been a particular interest of researchers.

In reality, in the past years, constitution protection under the mechanism of authority exercising has been realized; however, there are still many restrictions with the effectiveness of constitution protection by means of those mechanisms.

The construction of constitutional jurisdiction in Vietnam, undoubtedly, needs large-scale, serious and careful research, consulting progressive experience of other countries, as well as reconsidering the present mechanism of authority exercising.

The book is a compilation of articles of different science-legal professionals, aiming at providing readers with basic theoretical knowledge of constitutional jurisdiction and the construction of a model of constitutional jurisdiction in Vietnam today.

The book is divided into three parts.

Part One deals with basic issues of constitutional jurisdiction (i.e. the authority of agencies with constitution jurisdiction, sequence and proceedings under constitutional jurisdiction...).

Part Two examines international experience in constructing and enforcing

constitutional jurisdiction, and introduces models of constitution protection agencies of countries around the world (the Republic of Germany, the U.S.A, the SNG, Asian countries...), making suggestions and proposals of a model of constitutional jurisdiction of Vietnam, based thereon.

Part Three analyzes and explains the need for constitutional jurisdiction in Vietnam (establishment of a mechanism for constitutional jurisdiction; the functions, tasks and authority of constitutional jurisdiction agency; model of constitution protection; model of constitutional jurisdiction in Vietnam; etc.).

HẠ VÂN

NGUYỄN ĐÌNH CỬ. **Population Changing Trends in Vietnam** (Monograph). H.: Agriculture Publishing House, 2007, 396 p., Vb 45937.

Population – Family Planning is one of the crucial strategies to develop the country and a fundamental element to improve the quality of life of each person, each family and the society as a whole. The book is a systematization and thorough analysis of various data, documents and events concerned with population and therefore discovers core changes in our country's population in the last thirty years, at the same time predicts its future trends.

The author synthesizes population changing trends in Vietnam as follows: the already-large-scale population continues to increase rapidly; population structure by sex is balancing; sex imbalance in infants tends to increase;

population structure by age changes quickly; population is unequally distributed, migration and agglomeration; birth rate declines remarkably due to a shift from multi-children families to families with few but of good quality children; reproductive health is harmed and faced with great challenges; mortality rate is low and stable; population quality improves constantly but not yet high; Vietnamese families are smaller and more vulnerable. The author also points out population increase and transition changes in provinces nationwide and analyzes population changes in some specific regions.

Upon studying the trends, the author further investigates international experience and Vietnam's lessons in population and family planning, namely factors that foster population policy making of governments, goals and solutions to achieve the goals in world's population policies, forms of legal documents on population worldwide, and learnt lessons of Vietnam from its own population policies.

HOÀI PHÚC

NGỌC TÚ. **Thăng Long – aspect and history**. H.: Labour Publishing House, 2006, 326 p., Vb 45758.

The book is a collection and filtration of assessed researches on different aspects of Thang Long that the author collected and selected.

The book is published on the occasion of 1000 years of Thăng Long – Hà Nội. The parts gives both a general view and a

close-up of the establishment and development of the place “accumulating the motherland's soul during thousands of years”. The book can be divided into two parts:

Part One describes briefly the time when Thăng Long was chosen to be the capital of Dai Viet nation with the full text of the *Edict on the Transfer of the Capital* by Lý Thái Tổ (1010-1028) both in Chinese as printed in *Complete History Record of Đại Việt* (volume II) and in Nom, pointing out factors that made Lý Thái Tổ to choose Thăng Long as the capital, all of which are of exact time and favorable terrain like *nature and people, terrain, mountains, rivers, climate, soil, creatures, ...*

Part Two concisely presents Thăng Long through its different times, viz, *Thăng Long - Đông Đô - Đông Kinh - Hà Nội from the XI to the XIX century*), and *Hà Nội period*; introduces *ancient roads and rivers* that once belonged to Thăng Long. In this part, the author also acquaints readers with some historic places like Cổ Loa citadel, Đống Đa mound, Hà Nội flagpole, etc. and some other historical vestiges.

HÒA AN

NGUYỄN VĂN KỰ. **Heritage of Cham culture**. H.: “Thế giới” Publishing House, 2007, 119 p., Vb 45762.

“Together with the Việt and the Khmer tribes, the Cham are among the origins of the present-day history of Vietnam. They have established a unique culture that is second to no other Ancient and Medieval culture in South East Asia, and which is

an integral part of the Vietnamese culture as it is today.” The book includes 100 pictures selected from more than 7000 pictures that the author took during his thirty years of field trips to almost all temples, villages, historical vestiges of the Cham in the South-Central and West-South of Vietnam.

Those selected pictures help readers perceive the heritage of Cham culture on different fields such as temples and towers, sculpture, citadels, gravestones, material and spiritual lives, etc. that reflect various aspects of the Cham social and cultural lives through their history of formation and development. Each of the pictures also leads readers from one step to another in the Cham people’s seek for a reason for living, from their early days up to present days on the S-shaped land of Vietnam.

Moreover, the book provides scientists with “a block of fundamental material and general and valuable understanding of the Cham’s sculpture and art of portraying”.

KHÁNH CHI

ĐỖ HUY. Traditional-modern lifestyle – some theoretical and practical issues. H.: Culture-Information Publishing House, 2007, 319 p., Vb46020.

Globalization is having great impacts on the cultural character and traditional lifestyle of Vietnam. Vietnam sees globalization both as a chance to establish a national lifestyle and to

exchange more with modern values, and as a challenge to the improvement and extension of its values.

The book goes from theoretical research to analyses of practical aspects, hence brings readers a panorama of the traditional-modern lifestyle of Vietnam in the presently new context.

The writer first reviews theoretical grounds of a lifestyle by putting forward the concept of lifestyle and related categories, examining the social nature of a lifestyle and the maneuver of the lifestyles in pre-socialist societies, then thoroughly studies the objective conditions, the nature and the basic contents of the socialist-traditional-modern lifestyle. At the same time, the author clarifies the Party’s view concerning the essence of the traditional-modern lifestyle and its maneuver in Vietnam before and after “Doi moi” (the renewal phase); the dignity aspect of the traditional-modern lifestyle; its effects on the personality formation of Vietnamese and on the socio-dynamism of each individual. Besides, the writer also studies Hồ Chí Minh’s ideology about the traditional-modern lifestyle with an aim to aid sectors, circles, especially the culture sector, in establishing a socialist-traditional - modern lifestyle like the one that President Hồ Chí Minh often dreamt of.

HOÀI PHÚC