

BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY REVIEW

CULTURE AND INFORMATION. **Rules of sounds and meanings and basic units of the Vietnamese language.** H.: Culture and Information, 2006, 127 pages, Vb 44371.

This book documents the author's studies of the origin of the Vietnamese language, demonstrating the correspondence between sounds and meanings in basic word formation as well as the rules of the language. An important contribution to the field of linguistics, this book also helps raise Vietnam's awareness of the musical language that is their mother tongue.

The book includes 4 chapters.

Chapter 1 presents the correspondence between the sound and meaning of a vowel and syllables containing that vowel. It describes syllabic structures in which this correspondence exists.

Chapter 2 introduces rules of the correspondence between sounds and meanings of reduplication words, analyzing specific examples.

Chapter 3 discusses the scientific correspondence between sounds and meanings in the formation of Vietnamese words.

Chapter 4 analyzes the correspondence between sounds and meanings of initial consonants, summarizing the meanings of initial consonants of syllables.

The book ends with the Conclusion and References.

MINH ĐỨC

PHẠM ĐỨC MẠNH. **Dong Son-styled bronze drum (Heger I) in the southern part of Vietnam.** Ho Chi Minh City: Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh city, 2005, 503 pages, Vv 7311.

The bronze drum is a precious object to the ancient Vietnamese. It represents Vietnamese history of culture and arts and has been viewed as the “national essence” since Hung King's time. In the past few decades, there have been a considerable number of Dong-Son-styled bronze drums found in the southern part of Vietnam. This book is a comprehensive collection of specialist research on these historic objects. It demonstrates the high scientific value of the recently found bronze drums. The book also shows how important the bronze drum was in the lives of native dwellers in the prehistoric and the Bronze Age's time two millennia ago.

The book includes four main parts.

Part I introduces the history of finding and studying “Dong Son” type bronze drums in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

Part II concentrates on the search for Dong Son bronze drums in the southern part of Vietnam in the past few decades.

Part III analyzes the relics where bronze drums were found along with other archaeological objects in archaeological sites such as Tay Nguyen (Central Highlands), the southern central region of the country, and Mekong River delta.

Part IV offers a detailed analysis of Dong Son bronze drums in the South as an integral part of the Dong Son style in

Southeast Asia in prehistory and the Bronze Age. Materials and graphic and decorative features are discussed.

The last part is the references.

HD

NGUYỄN BÍCH NGỌC. **Ly Dynasty in the Vietnamese culture.** H.: Culture and Information, 2006, 309 pages, Vb 44811.

In addition to information on the Ly dynasty, its civilization, and cultural achievements, this book touches on the importance of the dynasty to Vietnamese culture. A comprehensive view of the Vietnamese history and culture, the book includes 8 main chapters.

Chapter I, through some written historic events, briefly introduces briefly the Ly dynasty in Vietnam.

Chapter II is a story about the Kings of the Ly dynasty from Ly Thai To (Ly Cong Uan) to Ly Chieu Hoang (Phat Kim), the last Queen.

Chapter III analyzes literary and artistic signs such as the valuable poems in the Ly dynasty, the construction of the imperial city of Thang Long and prominent works in Thang Long during the Ly dynasty.

Chapter IV is a brief introduction to outstanding figures under the Ly dynasty who held important positions in Vietnamese history, such as the Buddhist monk Van Hanh, Ly Thuong Kiet, Ly Dao Thanh, To Hien Thanh, Le Van Thinh.

Chapter V tells the legend of the Saints during the Ly dynasty such as Saint May, Saint Linh Lang, Saint Muou, Saint Duom, Saint Lang, etc.

Chapter VI introduces the prominent women of the Ly dynasty who contributed

greatly to the country, such as Nguyen Phi Y Lan, the Goddess of Nguyen Quan, Princess Thu La, Lady Dong Long, Que Nuong, Dung Nuong, etc.

Chapters VII and VIII introduce temples and festivals related to the Ly dynasty as well as legends and stories of the gods beginning from this period.

MD

TRẦN THỊ TRÂM ANH, NGUYỄN NGỌC BẢO, PHẠM VĂN ĐÌNH. **A study on the comparative advantages of specific products in several ecological areas in Vietnam.** H.: Agriculture Publishing House, 2006, 240 pages, Vv 7309.

The book analyzes the comparative advantages of specific products in the ecological areas chosen as research areas through the selective information collected at the grass root level. The value of this project is the evaluation and analysis based on a new research approach with the conclusion analysis in a theoretically standardized way. The book has the burning topical meaning as it is relevant to the temporary demands of Vietnam.

This book consists of seven main parts:

The first part studies the comparative advantages of rice as a product in the Red river delta the second biggest granary in Viet Nam.

The second part studies the comparative advantages of rice in Mekong River, the biggest rice producer in Vietnam. The writers propose several solutions to strictly exploit the comparative advantages of rice in this area.

The third part studies the comparative

advantages of coffee as a product in Tay Nguyen. Besides the targets, objects, scope and methods of research, the authors also reserve room to study the overview of coffee development in Viet Nam.

The fourth part studies the comparative advantages of the product of rubber in the Southeastern area. This is a key exporting product and the Southeastern has appropriate conditions for developing this product.

The fifth and sixth parts study the comparative advantages of pork products in the Red River and Cuu Long deltas. The writers also propose some solutions for exploiting the comparative advantages of pork.

The final part addresses the study on the comparative advantages of dairy-cow products in the Southeastern region. The writers also discuss results and the efficiency of dairy-cow breeding to breeders in the Southeast.

DAN LY

PHAN NGOC. **Vietnamese culture in contact with French culture.** H: Culture and Information and the Institute of Culture, 2006, 208 pages, Vb 45005.

An analysis of cultural exchange between the Vietnamese and French. Despite the dramatic difference between these two cultures, there have been many profound exchanges. The author hopes to help build a new concept of culture and the cultural features of each nation, as well as to whether a culture changes, particularly when it is in contact with other cultures. The author chose the period the Vietnamese culture was in touch with the

French, because he himself witnessed part of it. The book includes eight main chapters.

Chapters I and II introduce the moments which marked contact with Western cultures and review the experience of Vietnamese culture when it was in contact with Chinese Confucianist culture.

The author also points out the differences and opposition to Chinese Confucianism, which served as a basis for Vietnam's later contact with Catholicism (Chapter III).

In Chapter IV, after identifying the building elements of the cultural essence of Vietnam, the author studies the development of the Vietnamese ideology over nearly a century (1854-1945).

Chapter V introduces new ideas in Vietnam during this period.

Chapter VI deals the penetration of the French culture into Vietnam in late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.

In the last two chapters, the author discusses issues related to language exchange between Vietnam and France.

HOANG MINH

ĐẶNG NGUYỄN ANH. **Emigrant policies in the socio-economic development of the northern mountainous provinces.** H.: World Publishing, 2006, 248 pages, Vb 44710.

The book shows us the country's emigrant situation in the 90s. It focuses on reviewing the Government's approved emigrant policies to recommend policy measures for emigrant issues in the socio-economic development of the northern

mountainous provinces.

Chapter I focuses on theoretical issues such as the objectives, subjects, scope and methods of study related to emigration, as well as some ways to approach the basic theory to study this issue.

Chapter II presents an overview of emigrant policies in the northern mountainous areas such as policies to move people to new economic zones, policies to encourage settled agriculture, and policies to stabilize border areas.

Chapter III presents emigrant situations in the northern mountainous provinces and Tay Nguyen.

Chapter IV analyzes the effects of emigrant policies on the community and the socio-development of the mountainous areas.

Chapter V deals with the renovation of emigrant policies in the mountainous areas of Vietnam and offers specific recommendations to each policy category.

HOANG MINH

LÊ XUÂN BÁ, TRẦN KIM HÀO, NGUYỄN HỮU THẮNG (co-authors). **Vietnamese small and medium-sized enterprises in the international economic integration.** H.: Chinh tri Quoc gia (National Political Publishing), 2006, 196 pages, Vv 7539.

The book analyzes the impacts, opportunities, challenges and requirements for Vietnamese small and medium-sized enterprises in the international economic integration. By analyzing the development and operation of small and medium-sized enterprises, the authors express their opinions and give recommendations to improve the competitiveness of these enterprises in the coming years.

Chapter I analyzes the international economic integration and requirements for small and medium-sized Vietnamese enterprises. The authors also present the impact of international economic integration and current opportunities and challenges for small and medium-sized Vietnamese enterprises. Chapter II is an overview of small and medium-sized Vietnamese enterprises. It also shows us the real situation of the business environment for these enterprises.

Chapter III discusses the need to raise peoples awareness and to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. The authors also make several suggestions to enhance the competitiveness of these enterprises in the time to come.

HAI BINH