

NEW BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

NGUYEN THI LAN (Chief editor, 2024), **The property regime of spouses in modern society**, Vietnam Judicial Publishing House, Hanoi, 218 pages.

Law on Marriage and Family 2014 in Vietnam stipulates two property regimes: One based on mutual agreement and the other prescribed by law. However, the provisions within these regimes also reveal certain limitations, as well as particular challenges in the application in resolving cases which involves marital property. These challenges include issues such as determining joint and separate property, identifying rights and obligations concerning property in civil, commercial, and financial relationships, and the division of property during marriage, upon divorce, or in cases where a spouse is declared missing or presumed dead but later returns.

The book is structured into three chapters. *Chapter 1* introduces concepts and characteristics of the matrimonial property regime, and provides a brief assessment of its regulation under Vietnamese law. *Chapter 2* analyzes the current provisions of Vietnamese law on the property regime between spouses, including the identification of joint and separate property, joint and individual obligations concerning property, responsibilities of spouses with respect to property, and the division of property during marriage. The chapter also examines these issues in the context of real-life practices to highlight challenges and shortcomings of the existing property regime for spouses. Furthermore, the authors explore the practical application of the matrimonial

property regime through typical case studies of notable marital property disputes. Chapter 3 proposes directions and recommendations for improving the matrimonial property regime, ensuring a balance of interests between spouses, the family, and third parties involved in marital property matters.

HOAI PHUC

TRAN HONG THU (Chief editor, 2024), **Media and national consciousness among several ethnic groups along the Vietnam-China border**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 296 pages.

National consciousness plays a pivotal role in the formation of national and ethnic communities. It reflects the connection between individuals and the nation to which they belong, is expressed through various factors, domains, levels, and dimensions, and is continuous and enduring. Historically, the Vietnam-China border has been a site of numerous sensitive issues. The national consciousness of ethnic groups residing in this area is of particular significance in safeguarding territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The media plays a crucial role in addressing ethnicity-related issues, implementing state policies, and contributing to resolving potential conflicts that may emerge along the border. The book opens with a presentation of the theoretical foundations of the research (Chapter 1), followed by an in-depth examination of current media practices (Chapter 2) and the state of national consciousness (Chapter 3) among ethnic minority communities residing along the Vietnam-China border, with a particular

focus on Lao Cai province. Chapter 4 explores the influence of media on the development of national consciousness within these groups. Building upon the empirical findings, Chapter 5 approaches ethnic minority media from ethnological and anthropological perspectives, and proposes recommendations for media policies designed to cultivate national consciousness among ethnic communities along the border.

HOAI PHUC

NGUYEN KHANH VAN (Ed., 2023), **U.S. policy toward the Greater Middle East: A perspective from the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 252 pages.

The signing and implementation of the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement introduced new dimensions and adjustments in U.S. policy toward the Greater Middle East (GME). The Agreement marked the most substantial arrangement between the United States and the Taliban regarding Afghanistan's future. Looking ahead, U.S. foreign policy in the GME is expected to adopt a more pragmatic and less interventionist stance. The strategic focus of the United States continues to evolve, gradually shifting away from the Greater Middle East (GME) and pivoting towards the Indo-Pacific region. This book sheds light on the evolving dynamics of U.S. foreign relations and international engagement in the GME, viewed through the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement.

The book comprises three chapters. *Chapter 1* explores the background and formation of the U.S. Greater Middle East (GME) policy, while clarifying the continuity of this policy under the successive administrations that followed George W. Bush. *Chapter 2* examines

U.S. policy toward Afghanistan, tracing its evolution from the early stages to the signing of the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement. The agreement marked not only the end of U.S. engagement in Afghanistan but also a pivotal shift in the U.S. foreign policy and security strategy across the region and potentially, on a global scale. *Chapter 3* indicates the ongoing strategic transformations in the U.S. approach to the GME, highlights recent developments, and considers near-term prospects.

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TRAN THI MINH THI, NGUYEN HA DONG & LO VIET PHUONG (2024), **The role of older adults in Vietnam's aging society**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 347 pages.

Over the past three decades, Vietnam has undergone significant changes in both size and structure of its population. The proportion of older adults aged 60 and over increased from 7.1% in 1989 to 10.2% in 2014, 11.86% in 2019, and 13.9% in 2023, underscoring the country's rapidly aging population. This book examines the role of older adults within Vietnamese society, which is concurrently undergoing both a golden demographic structure and population aging. The book is organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 lays the theoretical and empirical groundwork. Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 subsequently analyze the roles of older adults across multiple dimensions, including economic, educational and socialization, and socio-political, within both family and community contexts.

The analyses presented in this book highlight the high level of social engagement among contemporary older adults, which in turn enhances their sense

of self-worth. They continue to play a significant role in supporting household economies. However, the proportion of older adults engaged in paid employment remains considerably lower than those involved in unpaid work. Pensions serve as a particularly critical source of income and stability for this age group.

At the community level, various forms of support are available to older adults; at the same time, they actively engage in the activities of socio-political organizations. Drawing on these findings, the authors offer recommendations aimed at strengthening the roles and capacities of older adults in the context of a rapidly aging society shaped by ongoing economic, cultural, and social transformations.

HOAI PHUC

NGUYEN DUY THUY (2024), **The private economy of the Central Highlands (2011-2020)**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 351 pages.

The Central Highlands region is situated at the tri-border junction of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, bordered to the south by the Southeastern Key Economic Zone - the most dynamic and economically advanced zone in the country today. Structured into three chapters, the book provides an objective and comprehensive account of the development of the

private sector in the Central Highlands from 2011 to 2020. It examines achievements, obstacles and limitations that have shaped the development of this sector in the region.

The author's analyses indicate that the private sector in the Central Highlands has made considerable progress in recent years, making a positive contribution to addressing fundamental socio-economic challenges, thereby facilitating its expansion and diversification. Both the number of enterprises and the volume of investment capital allocated to the region have shown consistent growth. Provinces such as Lam Dong, Dak Lak, and Gia Lai have attracted a relatively large share of non-state investment. Meanwhile, less developed provinces like Kon Tum and Dak Nong have made considerable efforts to attract and increase the proportion of private sector investment. However, persistent barriers have prevented the region's private economy from developing its full potential, particularly in the processing industry. Drawing on these findings, the author proposes solutions and recommendations intended to serve as a scientific basis for formulating sustainable development policies for the private sector in the region.

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