

**NEW BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY**

PHAMXUANHOANG (2024), **The impact of forest degradation on the spiritual life of indigenous ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 400 pages.

The Central Highlands is a region historically blessed with vast stretches of pristine forests and home to numerous indigenous ethnic groups that have long maintained a deep connection with the forests. However, the forests in this region have undergone significant transformations, characterized by a sharp decline in both land area and coverage, particularly natural forests. This change has had a profound effect on the spiritual life of the indigenous communities in the region.

The book is organized into three chapters, focusing on the spiritual life of indigenous ethnic groups in the Central Highlands in relation to deforestation. *Chapter 1* outlines key theoretical and practical issues concerning the relationship between forest resources and the spiritual life of ethnic communities who have long lived in close connection with the forest. It sheds light on the spiritual practices of these communities in their interactions with forests and forest resources. *Chapter 2* examines the current state of forest degradation and its impact on these groups' spiritual life, highlighting the major challenges faced by ethnic minorities amid the decline of forest resources. Building on these analyses, *Chapter 3* presents strategic orientations and proposes solutions/recommendations to conserve and develop forest resources that remain deeply intertwined with the spiritual life of local ethnic groups, thereby contributing to the preservation of their traditional cultural values.

PHAM NGUYEN

VU THI THU HA & HOANG VAN CHUNG (Co-editors, 2024), **Brahmanism in the Cham Community in Vietnam**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 294 pages.

The Cham people reside in large communities, including those following Islam, the Ba Ni religion, and Brahmanism, where ethnic and religious factors have long fostered a unique bond among community members. The distinctions between these communities are primarily grounded in their religious beliefs and practices. The book aims to elucidate the essential aspects of the historical origins and status of beliefs, practices, communities, places of worship, heritage, and social interactions related to Brahmanism within the Cham community in Vietnam.

The book comprises three chapters. *Chapter 1* provides a brief overview of Brahmanism globally and its presence within the Cham community in Vietnam, with a focus on the early modern and modern periods. *Chapter 2* explores the major aspects of Brahmanism in the Cham community, including characteristics of beliefs, religious philosophy, ethical principles, rituals, community structure and organization, places of worship, religious dignitaries, and community members. *Chapter 3* analyzes the inter-community relations of the Cham people practicing Brahmanism, examining the interactions between Brahmanism-following Cham communities and other Cham religious communities, as well as with other ethnic groups. Additionally, it addresses major transformative trends in Brahmanism within the Cham community in contemporary Vietnam.

HOAI PHUC