

BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY REVIEW

VŨ HỮU SAN. **Geography of South China Sea with Paracel - Spratly**. H.: Youth, 2014, 383 pages, Vb 51352.

The author directly participated in naval battle of the Paracel Islands in 1974 and have stick with Vietnam's sea and islands. The book collects, analyzes documents in Vietnam and overseas. It has been updated and supplemented in many years to give readers a comprehensive view on island geography. It is interdisciplinary and relates to achievements of various sciences such as geology, hydrology, ethnology, biology etc.

The book contains 16 chapters, focusing on: the value of South China Sea in the past and present; Vietnam's islands and coastal; general characteristics of Paracel and Spratly islands; islands in Paracel archipelago; islands in Spratly archipelago; knowledge of South China Sea and surveys in Paracel and Spratly areas etc. Especially, the book contains a table of geographic coordinates of Paracel and Spratly with names gathered from various sources, along with materials on lighthouses, shipyards, seaports etc.

HÀ LINH

PHẠM CHÍ TRUNG. **Renewing operation mechanism of research and development institutions in Vietnam**. H.: Social Sciences, 2013, 282 pages, Vb 51219.

The book concentrates on surveying and analyzing the current state of public research and development institutions which have technology and applications used in Vietnam's key economic sectors. The book has 3 chapters.

Chapter 1 builds concepts, researches on theoretical and practical basis, builds theoretical framework and approach to reform the operation mechanism of research and development institutions in Vietnam; analyzes the relationship between the reform of operation mechanism of those institutions and economic growth; researches and analyzes experience in reforming operation mechanism of research and development in a number of countries in the region and the world.

Chapter 2 analyzes, evaluates the state after reforming operation mechanism of public research and development institutions in some high-tech industries applicable in manufacturing – trading according to five basic arguments on reforming

operation mechanism of those institutions, including: self-reliance in performing science and technology tasks; self-reliance in model, organization; self-reliance in human resources for science and technology; self-reliance in finance; self-reliance in cooperation, association, joint venture.

Chapter 3 identifies 9 solutions to continue reforming the operation mechanism of research and development institutions during the economy transition and industrialization and modernization in Vietnam in the future.

HB.

HÀ ĐÌNH THÀNH (Eds). **Sustainable development of culture of Central region - Situation, problem and solution.** H.: Encyclopedia, 2014, 334 pages, Vb 51336.

In the orientation to develop sustainably today, culture plays an important role and is considered the fourth pillar in sustainable development which can contribute significantly to economic growth, social stability and environmental protection. The Central has the advantage in terms of geographical location, it connects two ends of the country and has long coastline, many international border gates and North-South traffic routes; at the same time,

it is a colorful picture of culture, harmonizing multi-ethnic cultures and sub-regional cultures. The sustainable development of culture is the key requirement and needs long-term strategy to maximize the advantage of this region.

The book consists of 4 chapters.

Chapter 1-2 generalize theoretical basis for sustainable development of regional cultures, giving a comprehensive picture of the traditional culture of the Central.

Chapter 3 clarifies guidelines and policies of the Party and the State for the sustainable development of the Central, analyzes the current state of sustainable development of the Central in the period 2001-2010; thereby assessing the sustainable development of this region.

On that basis, chapter 4 delivers opinions and proposes solution for sustainable development of culture in the Central in the period 2011-2020.

HOÀI PHÚC

TRƯỜNG MINH DỤC. **Vietnam's sovereignty over Paracel and Spratly archipelagoes through Vietnamese and overseas materials.** H.: Information and Communication, 2014, 343 pages, Vv 12430.

The book collects and systemizes relatively abundant old and new bibliography and material sources in

Vietnam and overseas, especially newly collected materials in localities related to how Vietnamese State managed, protected and exploited Paracel and Spratly islands through historical periods. The book has 4 chapters.

Chapter 1 generalizes geographical location, natural features and soil of Paracel and Spratly archipelagoes; strategic locations of these archipelagoes and Vietnamese ethnic groups and South China Sea in general and Paracel, Spratly in particular before 15th century.

Chapter 2 provides readers with rich historical documents asserting sovereignty of Vietnam over Paracel and Spratly archipelagoes which are recorded in the bibliography of Vietnamese feudal dynasties, books and studies of authors in types of writing or map.

Chapter 3 are oversea documents directly and indirectly asserting sovereignty of Vietnam over Paracel and Spratly archipelagoes, including: materials, bibliographies of China directly and indirectly acknowledge Paracel and Spratly belong to Vietnam; Western materials recognize Vietnam's sovereignty over Paracel and Spratly and some comments, reviews.

Chapter 4 outlines the process of China and countries violating Vietnam's sovereignty over Paracel

and Spratly archipelagoes; struggle approaches and forms to assert and defend Vietnam's sovereignty over Paracel and Spratly archipelagoes since 1975 until now.

TRẦN AN

DUƠNG VĂN SÁU. **Vietnamese Confucian heritage system and typical temple of literature in the North.** H.: Information and Communication, 2014, 328 pages, Vb 51341.

With multi-dimensional approach, the book gives you a deeper understanding of the cultural heritage of knowledge our forefathers have left through "cultural decoding" issues related to Confucian heritage system. The book consists of 3 chapters.

Chapter 1 generalizes Vietnamese Confucian heritage system including concept of Confucianism and Confucian, the study of Vietnamese Confucianism and Confucian, traditions and achievements of Vietnamese Confucian, the process of formation and development of Confucian heritage system in Vietnam.

Chapter 2 introduces typical Temple of Literature in the North such as Temple of Literature - Quốc Tử Giám, Bắc Ninh Temple of Literature, Mao Điền Temple of Literature (Hải Dương), Xích Đằng Temple of

Literature (Hung Yên) (history, architecture, relic system).

Chapter 3 clarifies the basic features of Vietnamese Confucian system through characteristics, relationships in terms of names, birth time, worship statue system, inscription and positions of Temples of Literature in Vietnamese cultural *heritage*.

HN.

AUTHORS. Nguyễn Trường Tộ: Yesterday and today. H.: Intellectual, 2014, 234 pages, Vb 51368.

Nguyễn Trường Tộ was the first Vietnamese intellectual who deeply understood the urgent need to reform the country: in the context of capitalism in Europe had developed to the extent that was necessary to shift to the colonial period, Vietnam was like other countries who were sleeping soundly in the siege of feudal ideology, sooner or later it would be the easy prey of Westerners. Five years after French colonists opened fire attacking Đà Nẵng, Nguyễn Trường Tộ began writing this reform proposal and he had been writing in the next ten years until he passed away.

Not all of Nguyễn Trường Tộ's recommendations were neglected, but basically the imperial court did not use his strategies. This was not the

failure of an individual but of a nation. So were his thoughts no use at all for the reform of the country of later generations like us? That is the main message as well as main contents mentioned in collection of articles in this book. The book is the tribute to the wise man who marked a turning point in the ideological journey of the nation and thereby useful lessons are drawn for today.

HOÀI PHÚC

ĐỖ MINH KHÔI (Editor). Institution on head of state in Constitutions of Vietnam. H.: National Political, 2014, 206 pages, Vb 51394.

The book studies the theoretical perspective of the role, functions, jurisdiction, legal status of head of state in relation to the institutional model; powers of head of state in some countries; analysis and assessment of institution on the head of state - president in the Constitution of Vietnam through the Constitutions in 1946, 1959, 1980, 1992, 1992 (amended and supplemented in 2001), 2013 etc. On this basis, the author proposes recommendations to expand the authority of the President in a synchronous, compatible way between rights and with the institutional model, the political regime in general under specific conditions of Vietnam today.

Contents of the book are presented in three main chapters.

Chapter 1 presents the general issues of head of state.

Chapter 2 gives an overview of the powers of head of state in the constitution in countries like USA, Italy, Russia, China, and Japan.

Chapter 3 clarifies the development of institution on head of state in the Constitutions of Vietnam

in each period, thereby giving some assessments.

Chapter 4 contributes to improve rules on head of state in Constitution of Vietnam, from the recognition of requirements set forth to orientations, principles and specific proposals.

PHẠM NGUYỄN