

NEW BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

NGODUCTHINH (2019), **Understanding Customary Laws of Ethnic Groups in Vietnam**, Publishing House of Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, Ho Chi Minh City, 424 pages

Customary law is a universal phenomenon of human history. The existence and role of customary law depends on the society of different ethnic groups. In Vietnam, up to now, customary law exists in all ethnic groups, manifested in various forms. It is a highly developed form of customs and customs and is a primitive and pre-legal form, thus suitable for the village self-governing social structure. Depending on the cultural traditions of each ethnic group, even each village, the customary content has specific characteristics. The book reviews some of the issues that have been raised during the process of customary law in Vietnam as a reference for readers interested in the academic issues related to customary law and its application in current rural development practices. The book includes two parts as follows.

First, it examines the various aspects of the customary law such as the perspective of customary law (chapter 1), the origin and nature of customary law (chapter 2), the forms of customary law (chapter 3), the content of customary law (chapter 8), enforcement of customary law (chapter 9), the values of customary law (chapter 10), customary law and the law (chapter 11).

Secondly, it introduces the customary laws of some ethnic groups - representing the different forms and levels of development of the customary laws of ethnic groups

in Vietnam, namely: E-đe customary law (chapter 4), M'ngong customary law (chapter 5), Thai customary law (chapter 6) and Vietnamese conventions (chapter 7).

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PHAM THI YEN (2019), **Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam's Foreign Relations (2002-2018)**, Publishing House of Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, Ho Chi Minh City, 215 pages

Cam Ranh Bay, located in the south of Khanh Hoa province, is of strategic importance to Vietnam's politics, economy, and security. With its terrain as a solid shield and a favorable position, Cam Ranh Bay plays a special role in Vietnam's international cooperation, which is an advantage for Vietnam to push it closer towards great powers. The book clarifies the position and role of Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam's external relations, thereby providing a relatively complete perspective on its status and role in Vietnam's international cooperation from the beginning of the 21st century to the present. The book consists of 3 chapters.

Chapter 1 clarifies the theoretical basis of geopolitics, geoeconomics, and the views of several international relations theories and explains the features that represent the geoeconomic and geosecurity roles of Cam Ranh Bay.

Chapter 2 analyzes Vietnam's economic and security policies for promoting international cooperation in Cam Ranh Bay and Vietnam's implementation of these policies from 2002 to the present through the relationship between Vietnam with major countries (Russia, USA, Japan, India, and China).

Chapter 3 analyzes the characteristics of the process of promoting international cooperation in Cam Ranh Bay, assesses the impact of this process on international relations, analyzes the prospects of international cooperation, thereby giving several recommendations for Vietnam's foreign affairs on Cam Ranh issue in the near future.

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ETIENNE FRANCOIS AYMONIER,
EMILE ROUCOULES (2018), **Education Policy in the Cochinchina in the Late 19th Century**, translated by Lai Nhu Bang, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 253 pages

Vietnam's modern national language script ('chữ quốc ngữ') or the Vietnamese Roman alphabet, written in Latin letters, was created by missionaries to serve as a missionary tool. The dissemination of the national language for the whole country of Vietnam, considering the national language as the official language in all administrative documents, was not agreed by the French authorities and led to lively debates, especially in the late nineteenth century - early twentieth century.

The book introduces 2 volumes of French authors, divided into 2 parts, reflecting the debate and the first steps of the development of the Vietnamese script in Vietnam. Part 1 ("Quốc ngữ" or "French - Asian") contains a set of discussion papers that delivered in the two conferences in Paris in 1889 with the proposal to turn the Vietnamese people into East Asian French. Part 2 (Cochinchina - 30 years of education and training in the time of conquered war) presents the education system and academic achievements in Cochinchina from the time the French invasion in Cochinchina until 1889. Besides, there were figures and

statistics of the Cochinchinese government that helped clarify the main academic background in Cochinchina at that time.

HOAI PHUC
NGODUC THINH (2019), **Understanding Vietnam's Traditional Agricultural Tools**, Publishing House of Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, Ho Chi Minh City, 392 pages

Facing revolutionary changes in Vietnamese agriculture today, it is necessary to improve and mechanize agricultural tools. How this works depends on serious consideration and deliberation of natural, social, and traditional factors. The book focuses on learning about Vietnam's traditional agricultural tools, including an in-depth study of some key ones used for reclamation, tillage, cultivation, sowing, fertilizing, harvesting, processing, and transport, etc.

From the historical and comparative perspectives, the book highlights the variation of each tool in the historical process, on the one hand, shows the unity of their types and nuances in distribution space on the other hand. It also specifies that each type of agricultural tool always constitutes a part of a complex of tools, meeting the stages of farming in agriculture. The 3 part book is as follows. Part 1 explores traditional soil preparation tools such as hoes, spades, shovels, plows, harrows, axes, etc. as well as methods of tillage. Part 2 deals with irrigation methods and tools in the mountains, valleys, and plains. Part 3 discusses harvesting methods and tools such as rice harvest, rice separation from husks. Part 4 clarifies methods and means of transporting agricultural products both on land and in water.

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