Understanding Australia’s Neighbours
An Introduction to East and Southeast Asia
Second Edition

The East and Southeast Asian region is of immense economic, strategic and cultural significance to Australia. It has been important in defining Australia’s national identity and is the source of many of Australia’s immigrants. Australians, therefore, need to have a good understanding of their northern neighbours and to think about the region in an informed way.

*Understanding Australia’s Neighbours* is a comprehensive introduction to the study of the region. Written thematically, it provides comparisons between the societies of East and Southeast Asia and Australia and encourages readers to think about Australia’s neighbours across a wide range of social, economic and historical contexts. Topics include:

- the nature of tradition and modernity
- changes to the family and religion
- the role of colonialism and nationalism in political change
- nation-building
- economic development and globalisation
- international politics
- democracy and human rights.

Fully revised and updated, this edition covers the region’s response to the global financial crisis, the war on terror and climate change. It also features a new chapter on the rise of China and its changing dynamic with Japan and the USA and what this means for the broader region and Australia.

Written in an accessible way, this is a book for all Australians who seek a well-informed view of the country’s neighbours in East and Southeast Asia.

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(with contribution from Daniel Halvorson)
## Contents

List of maps .......................... vi
List of acronyms and abbreviations vii
Acknowledgments ....................... ix

Introduction: Thinking about Asia, thinking about Australia .......................... 1
1 The idea of ‘Asia’: Australia’s ‘Near North’ – East and Southeast Asia .......... 5
2 Tradition and modernity in East and Southeast Asia: The family ................. 23
3 Tradition and modernity in East and Southeast Asia: Religion .................. 42
4 Colonialism in East and Southeast Asia: How important was the impact of the West? .......................... 61
5 Nationalism and revolution in East and Southeast Asia .............................. 81
6 Nations and nation-building in East and Southeast Asia ........................... 102
7 International politics and East and Southeast Asia: The Cold War and the Sino–Soviet split .......................... 120
8 Economic growth in East and Southeast Asia: The Japanese economic ‘miracle’ and the newly industrialised economies .......................... 137
9 Democracy, human rights, and development .......................... 161
10 Globalisation and East and Southeast Asia (with Daniel Halvorson) ............ 179
11 China–Japan relations and US power in the twenty-first century .......... 199
12 Australia in Asia, ‘Asia’ in Australia ........................................ 220

Bibliography .......................... 239
Index .................................. 265
Maps

1 Europe and Asia, showing East and Southeast Asia  page x
2 East and Southeast Asia  x
3 East Asia  xi
4 Southeast Asia  xii
Acronyms and abbreviations

ADB  Asian Development Bank
ANZUS  Australia, New Zealand and US pact
APEC  Asia–Pacific Cooperation
ARVN  South Vietnamese Army
ASEAN  Association of Southeast Asian Nations
B2B  business-to-business
CCP  Chinese Communist Party
CRA  Credit Rating Agency
DFAT  Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
EAEC  East Asian Economic Caucus
EEZ  Exclusive Economic Zone
EU  European Union
GDP  gross domestic product
GFC  Global Financial Crisis
GHG  greenhouse gases
FDI  foreign direct investment
FTA  free trade agreement
ICT  information and communications technology
IEA  International Energy Agency
IMF  International Monetary Fund
INGO  international non-government organisation
IPCC  Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISI  Import Substituting Industrialisation
JI  Jemaah Islamiya
MITI  Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Japan)
MOF  Ministry of Finance (Japan)
NAFTA  North American Free Trade Agreement
NIC  newly industrialising country
NIE  newly industrialising economy
OECD  Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRC  People’s Republic of China
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

RTA  regional trade agreement
SEATO  Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
SLORC  State Law and Order Restoration Council
TNC  transnational corporation
UDHR  The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN  United Nations (Organization)
UNESCAP  UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
WEF  World Economic Forum
WTO  World Trade Organization
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Nick Knight and Michael Heazle
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Map 3: East Asia