The East and Southeast Asian region is of immense economic, strategic and cultural significance to Australia. It has also been important in defining Australia’s national identity, and is the origin of many of Australia’s immigrants. Australians therefore need to have some understanding of their northern neighbours, and to be able to think about them in an informed way. They need to do so not only to be able to understand the region in which they live, but also to understand themselves better. This book facilitates this process by providing comparisons between Asian and Australian societies.

The reader is encouraged to think about Australia’s neighbours across a wide range of social, economic and historical contexts. These include the nature of tradition and modernity, change to the family and religion, the role of colonialism and nationalism in political change, nation-building, economic development, international politics, globalisation, and democracy and human rights.

Written in an accessible and informative way, this is a book for all Australians who seek a better understanding of Australia’s neighbours in East and Southeast Asia.

Nick Knight is a Professor in the School of International Business and Asian Studies at Griffith University where he teaches an introductory course on Asia. He is an authority on the thought of Mao Zedong and has published several books on Mao.
Understanding Australia’s Neighbours

An Introduction to East and Southeast Asia

Nick Knight
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Europe and Asia, showing East and Southeast Asia

East and Southeast Asia