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MARTIN STUART-FOX
University of Queensland



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*For my parents-in-law
Maurice and Rose Cavalerie
former proprietors of the
Hotel Constellation, Viang Chan*

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1353 Foundation by Fā Ngum of the Lao kingdom of Lān Xāng.
 1479 Vietnamese invasion of Lān Xāng.
 1548 Xētthāthirāt briefly unifies kingdoms of Lān Xāng and Lān Nā.
 1560 Capital moved from Luang Phrabāng to Viang Chan.
 1563–75 Series of Burmese invasions of Lān Xāng.
 1638–95 Reign of Surinyavongsā.
 1641–42 First Europeans to leave records arrive in Viang Chan.
 1707, 1713 Division of Lān Xāng into three kingdoms of Luang Phrabāng, Viang Chan and Champāsak.
 1779 All three Lao kingdoms reduced to tributaries of Siam.
 1826–28 Chau Ānuvong’s war of independence results in destruction of Viang Chan by Siam.
 1820–40 Earliest Hmong migrations into Laos.
 1861 French explorer Henri Mouhot arrives in Luang Phrabāng.
 1867 French Mekong expedition maps river through Lao territories.
 1887 Auguste Pavie, first French vice-consul, arrives in Luang Phrabāng (February).
 1893 French seize Lao territories east of Mekong, ceded by Siam. (Treaty signed 3 October.)
 1899 Administrative reorganization of Laos under Résident Supérieur.
 1901–07 ‘Holy Man’s revolt’ in southern Laos.
 1907 Franco-Siamese treaty establishes present frontiers of Laos.
 1908–10 Leu insurrection in northern Laos.
 1914–16 Leu revolt in Luang Namthā, and Hô-Tai revolt in northeast.
 1919–22 Hmong insurrection in northern Laos.
 1923 First session of Indigenous Consultative Assembly (30 August).
 1934–36 Revolt of Kommadam in the Bôlavēn region.
 1941 Franco-Thai war leads to loss of Lao territories on the west bank of the Mekong.
 1945 Japanese intern French (9 March).
 King forced to declare Lao independence (8 April).
 Japanese surrender (15 August).
 Prince Phetxarāt proclaims unity and independence of Laos (15 September).
 Lao Issara provisional government formed (12 October).
 1946 French reoccupy Laos (March–April).
 Thailand returns Lao west-bank territories (November).

CHRONOLOGY

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- 1947 Promulgation of Lao Constitution (11 May).
 Elections for first National Assembly (August).
- 1949 Suphānuvong breaks with Lao Issara (May).
 Laos 'independent' within French Union (19 July).
 Lao Issara government-in-exile dissolved (October).
- 1950 United States recognizes Laos as independent state
 (7 February).
 Pathēt Lao Resistance government formed (August).
- 1951 Suvanna Phūmā forms his first government (November).
- 1953 Vietminh invade Laos (April, December).
- 1954 French surrender at Dien Bien Phu (7 May).
 Signing of Geneva Agreements (20 July).
- 1955 Formation of Lao People's Party (22 March).
- 1956 Formation of Lao Patriotic Front (January).
 Second Suvanna Phūmā government (March).
 Negotiations with Pathēt Lao to form coalition government.
- 1957 Formation of First Coalition government (19 November).
- 1958 Supplementary elections (4 May) result in leftist gains.
 Formation of US-backed right-wing Committee for the
 Defence of the National Interest (10 June).
 Suspension of US aid forces resignation of Suvanna Phūmā
 (22 July).
 Formation of right-wing government (18 August).
- 1959 Forced integration of Pathēt Lao forces fails.
 Arrest of Pathēt Lao leaders in Viang Chan (27 July).
 Succession of King Savāngvatthanā (29 October).
 Attempted military *coup d'état* forces resignation of Phuy
 Xananikôn government (31 December).
- 1960 Rigged national elections won by rightists (24 April).
 Neutralist *coup d'état* of Captain Kônglae (8–9 August).
 Third Suvanna Phūmā government formed (16 August).
 Battle of Viang Chan (13–16 December).
- 1961 Neutralist–Pathēt Lao forces seize Plain of Jars (January).
 Kennedy administration announces US support for neut-
 ralization of Laos (23 March).
 Geneva Conference on Laos opens (16 May).
- 1962 Crushing rightist defeat at battle of Namthā (May).
 Formation of Second Coalition government (23 June).
 Conclusion of Geneva Conference on Laos (23 July).
- 1963 Assassination of Kinim Phonsēnā signals *de facto* collapse of
 Second Coalition (1 April).
- 1964 Second Congress of Lao Patriotic Front (6 April).
 Attempted rightist military *coup d'état* (19 April).
 Pathēt Lao drive Neutralists from Plain of Jars (May).
 US bombing of communist targets in Laos begins (May).
- 1965 Attempted rightist *putsch* foiled (31 January).
 Indochina People's Conference, Phnom Penh (February).
 Pathēt Lao forces named Lao People's Liberation Army
 (5 October).

- 1966 Political crisis leads to new elections (September)
- 1968 Combined forces of the North Vietnamese Army and the Lao People's Liberation Army take Nam Bāk, Phū Phā Thū (January).
 Third Congress of Lao Patriotic Front (25 October).
- 1969 Hmong 'Secret Army' forces take Plain of Jars (September).
- 1970 Combined forces of the North Vietnamese Army and the Lao People's Liberation Army retake Plain of Jars (February).
- 1971 South Vietnamese forces launch operation Lam Son 719 against Ho Chi Minh trail; heavily defeated (February).
- 1972 Elections for National Assembly (2 January).
 Second Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party held secretly in Viang Xai (February).
- 1972–73 Negotiations on cease-fire and coalition government (October–February).
- 1973 Cease-fire comes into effect (21 February).
 Agreement on formation of Third Coalition (14 September).
- 1974 Third Coalition government takes office (5 April). National Political Consultative Committee adopts Eighteen-point Political Program (24 May).
- 1975 National Assembly dissolved by royal decree (13 April).
 Demonstrations force rightist leaders to flee (9 May).
 'Liberation' of Viang Chan (23 August).
 Pathēt Lao hold local and provincial elections (November).
 Abdication of King Savāngvatthanā (1 December).
 Proclamation of Lao People's Democratic Republic (2 December).
- 1976 Lao People's Revolutionary Party embarks on socialist phase of revolution.
- 1977 Hmong uprising; former King imprisoned at Viang Xai (March).
 25-year Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed with Vietnam (18 July).
- 1978–80 Interim Three-year Plan.
- 1978 Agricultural cooperativization program launched (May).
 Laos sides with Vietnam against China over Cambodia (July).
- 1979 Formation of Lao Front for National Construction (20 February).
 Suspension of agricultural cooperativization program (July).
 Seventh Resolution of Party Central Committee endorses new economic policy (December).
- 1981–85 First Five-year Plan
- 1982 Third Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (27–30 April).
- 1984 Suvanna Phūmā dies in Viang Chan, aged 82 (10 January).
 Border conflict with Thailand over three villages (June).

CHRONOLOGY

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- 1985 First Lao–US search mission for soldiers missing in action (February).
 First nationwide population census (1–7 March).
 Celebrations mark tenth anniversary of LPDR (December).
- 1986–90 Second Five-year Plan.
- 1986 Fourth Congress of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party endorses New Economic Mechanism introducing market economic principles (13–15 November).
- 1987–88 New border conflict with Thailand (November–January).
- 1988 Foreign Ministry announces all Vietnamese troops withdrawn from Laos (23 November).
- 1989 First elections for Supreme People’s Assembly (26 March).
- 1990 Visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng marks warming of relations with China (15–17 December).
- 1991–95 Medium-term Policy Framework replaces Third Five-year Plan.
- 1991 Fifth Congress of Lao People’s Revolutionary Party elevates Kaisôn Phomvihān to presidency of the State and the Party (27–29 March).
 Supreme People’s Assembly endorses constitution (13 August).
- 1992 Kaisôn Phomvihān dies (21 November), replaced by Nūhak Phūmsavan as State President, and Khamtai Siphandôn as prime minister and president of the Party.
 Elections for renamed National Assembly (20 December).
- 1993 Further economic reforms and environmental protection law passed.
- 1994 First bridge spanning the Mekong opened (8 April).
- 1996 Sixth Congress of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party (18–20 March).

ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<i>BSEI</i>	<i>Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Indochinoises</i>
CDNI	Committee for the Defence of the National Interest
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DRV	Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam
ECAFE	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
FBIS	Foreign Broadcasts Information Service
<i>FRUS</i>	<i>Foreign Relations of the United States</i>
ICP	Indochinese Communist Party
ICSC	International Commission for Supervision and Control
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LPDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LPF	Lao Patriotic Front
SEATO	South-East Asia Treaty Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

