

## The Port

The Port (present-day Hà Tiên), situated in the Mekong Delta and Gulf of Siam littoral, was founded and governed by the Chinese creole Mo clan during the eighteenth century and prospered as a free-trade emporium in maritime East Asia. Mo Jiu and his son Mo Tianci maintained an independent polity through ambiguous and simultaneous allegiances to the Cochinchinese regime of southern Vietnam, Cambodia, Siam, and the Dutch East India Company. A shared value system was forged among their multiethnic and multi-confessional residents via elite Chinese culture, facilitating closer business ties to Qing China. The story of this remarkable settlement sheds light on a transitional period in East Asian history, when the dominance of the Chinese state, merchants, and immigrants gave way to firmer state boundaries in mainland Southeast Asia and Western dominance on the seas.

Xing Hang is Associate Professor at the Department of Chinese History and Culture at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

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*Hà Tiên and the Mo Clan in Early Modern Asia*

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Xing Hang

*Hong Kong Polytechnic University*



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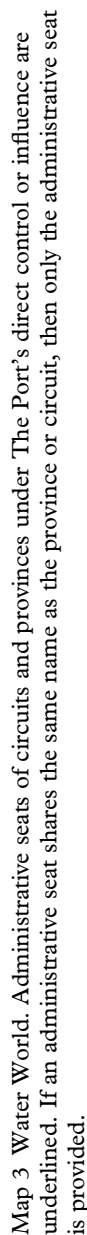


Map 1 Maritime East Asia.  
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Map 2 Mainland Southeast Asia.  
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Map 4 The Port's core area.  
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