

# Cambridge Elements

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## THE RISE OF SOPHISTICATED AUTHORITARIANISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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## The Rise of Sophisticated Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia

Elements in Politics and Society in Southeast Asia

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**Abstract:** This Element offers a way to understand the evolution of authoritarian rule in Southeast Asia. The theoretical framework is based on a set of indicators (judged for their known advantages and mimicry of democratic attributes) as well as a typology (conceptualized as two discreet categories of “retrograde” and “sophisticated” authoritarianism). Working with an original data set, the empirical results reveal vast differences within and across authoritarian regimes in Southeast Asia, but also a discernible shift toward sophisticated authoritarianism over time. The Element concludes with a reflection of its contribution and a statement on its generalizability.

**Keywords:** authoritarianism, Southeast Asia retrograde, sophisticated, history

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