## Contents

**List of Tables**  
page vii  
**List of Contributors**  
viii  
**Preface**  
xi  
**Chronology**  
xiii  
**Table of Cases**  
xvi  
**Table of Statutes, Constitutional Provisions, and Treaties**  
xviii  
**List of Abbreviations**  
xxx  

1. **Introduction**  
Andrew Harding  
1  

2. **Thai Legal History: A Brief Literature Review**  
Rawin Leelapana, Andrew Harding, and Eugénie Mérieau  
15  

**PART I TRADITIONAL LAW AND ITS MODERN RESONANCES**

3. **Thammasat, Custom, and Royal Authority in Siam's Legal History**  
Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit  
23  

Kongsatja Suwanapech  
41  

5. **Buddhist Influence on the Ancient Siamese Legal System, from Ayutthaya to the Twenty-First Century**  
Khemthong Tonsakulruang  
60  

6. **A History of the Thai Lèse-Majesté Law**  
Eugénie Mérieau  
77  

7. **Blood Curse and Belonging in Thailand: Law, Buddhism and Legal Consciousness**  
David M. Engel  
89
# Table of Contents

## Part II Foreign Influence and the Reform Period

8 British Judges in the Supreme Court of Siam  
Surutchada Reekie and Adam Reekie  

9 The Fundamental Misconception in the Drafting of the Thai Civil and Commercial Code of 1925  
Munin Pongsapan  

10 The Modernisation of Thai Criminal Law: From the 1908 Penal Code to the 1956 Criminal Code  
Kanaphon Chanhom  

11 Thai Trust Law: A Legal Import Rooted in Pragmatism  
Surutchada Reekie and Narun Popattanachai  

12 The History of Thai Family Laws: Strong Women and Weak Gender Equality under the Law  
Apinop Atipiboonsin  

13 The Origins of Thailand’s Bureaucratic State and the Consolidation of Administrative Justice  
Peter Leyland  

14 Siam and the Standard of Civilisation in the Nineteenth Century  
Krisdakorn Wongwuthikun and Naporn Popattanachai  

## Part III Constitutional Conflicts 1932–2017

Rawin Leelapatana  

16 Permutations of the Basic Structure: Thai Constitutionalism and the Democratic Regime with the King as Head  
Henning Glaser  

17 The 1991–1992 Judicial Crisis: Personalities or Principles?  
Duncan McCargo  

18 Without Account: Coups, Amnesties and Justice in Thailand  
Tyrell Haberkorn  

Glossary  
Index