

Agrarian Angst and Rural Resistance in Contemporary Southeast Asia

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Edited by **Dominique Caouette** and **Sarah Turner**

Agrarian transformations, market integration and globalization processes are impacting upon rural Southeast Asia with increasingly complex and diverse consequences. In response, local inhabitants are devising a broad range of resistance measures that they feel will best protect or improve their livelihoods, ensure greater social justice and equity, or allow them to just be left alone. This book develops a multi-scalar approach to examine such resistance occurring in relation to agrarian transformations in the Southeast Asian region.

The contributors take a fresh look at the diversity of sites of struggle and the combinations of resistance measures being utilized in contemporary Southeast Asia. They reveal that open public conflicts and debates are taking place between dominators and the oppressed, at the same time as covert critiques of power and everyday forms of resistance. The authors show how resistance measures are context contingent, shaped by different world views, and shift according to local circumstances, the opening and closing of political opportunity structures, and the historical peculiarities of resistance dynamics.

By providing new conceptual approaches and illustrative case studies that cut across scales and forms, this book will be of interest to academics and students in comparative politics, sociology, human geography, environmental studies, cultural anthropology and Southeast Asian studies. It will also help to further debate and action among academics, activists and policymakers.



Reviews

"Judging by the impressive quality of the essays assembled here, the study of agrarian resistance in Southeast Asia is in very good hands indeed. Thirty years of technical, political, demographic, and social change have been fully and coherently theorized in this new assessment. It's gratifying to see earlier work (including one's own!) superceded in such style."

James C. Scott, Sterling Professor of Political Science and Anthropology; Director, Program in Agrarian Studies
Yale University

"The work of anthropologists, geographers, media analysts, political scientists, and sociologists who weave together both their engagement with social science debates and their deep knowledge of countries in Southeast Asia, this book enhances our knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of resistance not only in that region but among subordinate people around the globe."

Ben Kerkvliet, Emeritus Professor, The Australian National University

"Highly informative and relevant in a time of major changes in the Southeast Asian landscape. Policymakers and academics trying to understand the intricate balance between economic growth and agrarian resistance should read this book."

Dr Roland Cheo, National University of Singapore

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