Early Modern Southeast Asia, 1350-1800 is an important book for any student, researcher, or educator of precolonial Southeast Asia. The contributors present the latest findings and establish new inroads into research about the region’s pre-modern past. The book’s agenda is stated clearly on the first page: to show how well-developed Southeast Asia was before the onset of European involvement and that it had a parity with Europe in terms of socio-economic progress and attainments.

The book is organized in four parts: Part 1, Diplomatic and Inter-state Relations, reveals the complexities of these relations. This book presents extensive new research findings on and new thinking about Southeast Asia in this interesting, richly diverse, but much understudied period. It examines the wide and well-developed trading networks, explores the different kinds of regimes and the nature of power and security, considers urban growth, international relations and the beginnings of European involvement with the region, and discusses religious factors, in particular the spread and impact of Christianity.


