the poem, there is no critical apparatus which would provide the reader with a guide to
the language which the Thai author has used. There are some parts of the translation
which misrepresent or obfuscate the meaning of the Thai original. For example,
khrijang atthabijrikhän (line 322) should be translated as the “eight requisites” (i.e.,
things permitted to be owned by the monk), rather than “apparatus”. A baísí hā chan
Line 343) is a five-tiered tray of flowers, not “five leaf-flower trays” (see Plates VI and
VII). A nāk (nāga) is a candidate for ordination, not a “new monk” (line 384 and
elsewhere). The mode of transliteration of Thai and Pāli names, not being in one of the
established scholarly traditions, also distracts (e.g., Phimpha and Rahul for Bimba and
Rāhula for the wife and son of the Buddha at line 356). Still, the translation reads very
well and Professor Silcock is to be commended for his rendering into English poetic
form a poem in such a different language as Thai.

Although the book is clearly directed at two different audiences, one Thai and one
English-speaking, it is rather a disservice to the author of the poem that his name ap-
ppears only in Thai on the cover and title page. Such caveats notwithstanding, students
of Thai folklore and ethnography, be they Thai or Westerners, will certainly welcome
this book.

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Donald C. Hellmann (Ed.), China and Japan: A New Balance of Power. Lexington,

Japan and China have been at the nerve center of American East Asian policy
since Perry and Burlingame. During the pre-World War II period, U.S. policy was
characterized by such phrases as “Open Door”, “Protection of the territorial integrity
of China”, “Most favoured nation treatment” and by such agreements as Root-
Takahara, Lansing-Iishi and other formal and informal understandings designed to
create an accommodation to the national interests and power realities of the three na-
tions. Despite these understandings and policy pronouncements, the pre-war period
was to witness extended conflict between Japan and China which finally engulfed the
Soviet Union and the United States. The lesson for the United States is clear—peace in
Asia depends on understanding the roles of Japan and China—and the USSR—in the
developing four power balance in Asia and acting in a manner that seeks to reconcile
the conflicting interests of the four powers. That China and Japan will be critical to the
future course of events in East Asia is indisputable; that the U.S. must better under-
stand the domestic forces that shape the internal and external policies of Japan and
China is absolutely essential—for without such understanding and tolerance, the
potentially volatile East Asian area could once again become a theatre of conflict.

The United States is on the threshold of a new relationship with China; we have
close economic, financial and cultural ties with Japan; we are developing a better ap-
preciation of the roles that China and Japan will play in international politics in Asia in
the coming decades. We are getting ready for the new era that is dawning in Asia—the
new balance of power that this book is all about.

This is why China and Japan—A New Balance of Power is so timely. It is not only for
the student of Asian affairs but for the concerned citizen who perceives his future in
terms of peace and stability in Asia. It is readable and erudite; it is direct and compell-
ing in its description of events and the forces which shape the events; it is sound and logical in its presentation of policy options for the U.S.; it is incisive yet somewhat troubling in its analysis of political and economic problems and how these problems will influence relations among the three powers. There is reassurance, hope for the future and some sober warnings in the 300 pages of this superb study of Japan, China and the U.S.

Donald Hellmann, the editor of the volume, has assembled an impressive group of Asian scholars to analyze, probe, sort out and evaluate the factors influencing the "new balance of power" in Asia. For the Japanese section of the book, Chalmers Johnson, Gary Saxonhouse and Hugh Patrick as well as Hellmann himself, examine the politics and economics of Japan and their importance to Japan's future. The authors are blunt but fair in their analysis. For example, Japan's incapacity for bold leadership, her tendency toward a passive and reactive foreign policy, as described by one author, are weaknesses that are treated, on the whole, in an even-handed and sympathetic manner. One writer suggests that Japanese foreign policy resembles more that of a trading company than of a nation. Another sees Japan's inability to achieve a consensus on foreign policy goals as seriously affecting Japan's ability to play a forceful role in international affairs. He contends that present domestic developments do not bode well for the future. Drift, indecision and difficulty in making forceful decisions are inhibiting Japan's ability to influence events.

The authors, in their analyses and evaluations of Japan's current problems, probe below the surface to give the reader a good appreciation of the forces influencing these problems. Pollution, inadequate housing, noise, inflation, over-crowding, a policy of putting GNP ahead of net national welfare, as Johnson puts it, are dealt with constructively and with a commitment to fact and reason. Such areas as American policy and Japanese politics, Japanese domestic policy and foreign policy, Japanese foreign policy in a pluralist world, bi-lateral American Japanese and American economic relations and the future growth of the Japanese economy are a few of the subjects discussed so impressively by the authors.

Like their Japanese colleagues, the authors of the China section of the book are careful and scholarly in their presentations. They are, to some extent, limited in their examination of Chinese problems by a lack of reliable data on economic and political events in the People's Republic of China. Despite this handicap, Dwight Perkins, Thomas Robinson and Michel Oksenberg do an excellent job of portraying the China of today, its weaknesses and strengths and the direction it is likely to go. A weakness noted by the authors, for example, is the industrial sector which is not growing fast enough to absorb population growth. This situation has enormous social and economic implications for Chinese political and economic stability. The authors not only present the factors that explain this development but describe clearly the limitations on Chinese economic, political and military development. They cover such profound subjects as the political and strategic aspects of Chinese foreign policy, the struggle for power in China and the personalities engaged in this struggle, Chinese nuclear strategy, the Shanghai communique and the future of Sino-American relations, among others. All these matters are likely to have an important impact on the future of Asia.

This book makes a significant contribution to knowledge of China and Japan and the roles these nations are destined to play in the new balance of power in Asia. It suffers from some inevitable duplication of subject matter; and for those with an "uneconomic" bent of mind, the tables and charts and the discussion of highly complex international financial matters may be a bit tedious. However, for the reader who