In later chapters, this historical approach is followed first by John Lagerwey, who investigates the unique manner in which Wu-tang Shan became the center of a national cult devoted to the Dark Warrior in the Fifteenth Century, and then by Susan Naquin who explains the nature and maintenance of an important regional pilgrimage site outside Beijing in terms of the efforts of various, sometimes competing pilgrimage associations. Naquin also stresses the idea that the goal of many pilgrims was to initiate or complete a vow with the mountain deity.

Rudolf G. Wagner's concluding chapter is a study not of an ancient mountain but of a modern mausoleum—the memorial hall built for Chairman Mao Tse-Tung in 1976-77. "In terms of religious space, the new state ordained a new holy map," Wagner argues, "... to replace or compete with the traditional pilgrimage and tourism centers" (p. 378) analyzed in the rest of this volume. In Wagner's reading, Mao's mausoleum was designed to revive revolutionary fervor. At the center of the new pilgrimage route was Mao's "flesh body", the supreme relic of a new faith. Wagner's provocative argument reveals how a study of China's religious pilgrimages can illuminate seemingly unrelated political pilgrimages in contemporary China. In every case, these chapters are works of meticulous scholarship, indicative of how a fuller history of Chinese pilgrimages could augment comparative studies of pilgrimages in other cultures. This collection is also a fresh contribution to the study of China's social history, inaugurating a promising new field of China studies.

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The exceptional performance of many of the ASEAN countries in recent years is attracting increasing global attention, including that from the scholarly, journalistic, and business community. To provide an overview of contemporary Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, Steven Schlossstein, the former Vice President of Morgan Guaranty Trust company, has written Asia's New Little Dragons: The Dynamic Emergence of Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. Schlossstein's earlier books, Trade War and The End of the American Century, established him as a major figure commenting on the contemporary U.S. economy and an increasingly interdependent global economic system. His more recent volume on Southeast Asia was recently reviewed favorably and for the most part uncritically in the Far Eastern Economic Review by Gordon Fairchough (21 November 1991).

As Japanese and U.S. scholars concerned about enhancing global understanding of Thailand and its unique culture, we find it difficult to allow this volume with its many mistakes and distortions to go unquestioned. In reviewing this new volume critically, we intend no disrespect to the many distinguished and influential Thais who kindly granted time from their busy schedules for Schlossstein to interview them.

Schlossstein's approach to writing this book is that often characterized by the term "quick and dirty". The author spent an "extensive" four to five months in Southeast Asia talking primarily with prominent business executives and technocrats. This gave him approximately six weeks in each of the three countries studied.

Before discussing the book's major flaws and distortions, we would like first to comment on some of its positive qualities. Schlossstein is clearly an excellent writer who has provided us with an extremely readable volume. He is also careful to avoid the
excessive jargon which characterize many scholarly works on Thailand and Southeast Asia.

At the beginning of the volume Schlossstein carefully synthesizes the many factors which have accounted for the remarkable economic success of the four little dragons, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Singapore. He also shows excellent awareness of growing Japanese economic influence in Southeast Asia and is to be highly commended for challenging the U.S. to overcome both its neglect and ignorance of Southeast Asia.

Though Schlossstein’s book focuses on three ASEAN countries, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, the focus of our review is the section of the book describing contemporary Thailand. With respect to his overview of Thailand, Schlossstein deserves credit for presenting both positive and negative perspectives on Thailand. He openly discusses controversial and often “undiscussed” issues such as the sex industry, AIDS, and corruption.

The title of the book is itself misleading and inappropriate. What is little about Indonesia, a country with over 17,000 islands that extends over 7,000 kilometers from west to east and which is the fourth largest country in the world? Thailand is now the world’s 16th largest country and is considerably bigger in area than California. Malaysia is roughly in area the size of Montana, one of the largest U.S. states. In all likelihood, Schlossstein was thinking in merely economic terms when he used the term “small”. But even in economic terms there is now nothing small about either Indonesia or Thailand. The Thai GDP as of 1990 was over $80 billion U.S., the Indonesian $99.5 billion U.S., and that of Malaysia, 42.6 billion U.S. Thus, the three economies combined have a GDP of approximately $220 billion U.S.

Given the importance of Chinese culture in places such as Hong Kong or Taiwan, the dragon is an appropriate symbol. Though there are significant Chinese minorities in each of the countries discussed by Schlossstein, to use the image of the dragon is culturally misplaced for the majority non-Chinese populations of each country covered in his book.

Space limitations do not permit to discuss all aspects of his broad overview of contemporary Thailand and its recent political and economic history. Perhaps the most glaring factual error is Schlossstein’s assertion that there were nine unsuccessful coups against the Prem government. He even italicizes the nine, to emphasize how many coups there were. Actually there were only two unsuccessful coups against Prem, one in 1981 (April Fools coup) and another in 1985 (Black Monday). Of course, there was a successful “Saturday surprise” coup against the elected Chatichai government in February, 1991, which planted the seeds for the tragic violence of May, 1992.

With respect to economic conditions, Schlossstein states that nearly 90% of Thailand’s population is rural and poor. That is an extremely misleading statement and ignores the rapid pace of urbanization in Thailand in recent decades and the growth of a substantial middle class which played a major role in the pro-democracy demonstrations of May, 1992. Poverty and serious problems of personal and regional income distribution certainly persist, however.

In his criticism of the low level of Thai formal education, Schlossstein ignores important gains made by the Thais in the area of nonformal education and significant expansions in both secondary and higher education. Thailand, to the surprise of many foreigners, now has over 300 colleges and universities.

In the political realm, Schlossstein argues that Thailand has been a client state of the U.S. for forty years. While there is no denying that the U.S. has had important