

PREFACE

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As the appellation Indochina implies, Southeast Asia was, for a long time, regarded as an area neither India nor China but were imbued with both Indian and Chinese cultures. In his *Les états hindouisés d'Indochine et d'Indonésie* (1948), G. Coëdès pointed out the emergence in the Peninsula as well as in the Islands of the kingdoms established on the Sanskritic tradition. On the other hand, René Grousset wrote earlier in his *Histoire de l'extrême-orient* (1929) on the Chinese occupation of Annam which led to the eventual beginning of the Sinicized state of Vietnam. It is to be noted, however, that little attention had so far been paid to the importance of the role played by the sea by which the advanced cultures reached the region.

In 1949, Fernand Braudel wrote *La Méditerranée et le monde méditerranéen à l'époque de Philippe II* in which he indicated the undeniable effect of maritime communication and trade in particular, upon the development of European history. Braudel's pioneering work has gradually found increasing number of Southeast Asian historians who used to be accustomed to land-oriented historiography. They now realized the impact of the sea upon the development of history of the region. Thus, in 1990, J. Kathirithamby-Wells proposed the concept of "port-polity," one of the particular feature of which is cosmopolitanity and multiethnicity.

This book is a collection of articles dealing with various changes which took place in premodern and modern Southeast Asian states and societies due to their increasing exposure to outside world through contact with maritime traders as well as colonialists. The editor hopes to present here not only how the colonization changed the traditional Southeast Asian polities and societies but also explore the possibility of finding a way of intermediate view between two distinct worlds of colonial and post-colonial, thus opening the way to novel approach to the history of Southeast Asia.