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EDITOR'S NOTE

Margaret John, our contact at AI reported many issues in

depth relevant to MSB during the quarter, more than our traditional 12 pages allow. Help at www.amnesty.org and malaysiasingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca.

PERIODICALS PERIODICALS periodicals periodicals

>Akademika: journal of the social sciences and humanities N.69, Jul 2006 -- 1) Ungku Maimunah Mohd Tahir, "Pemahaman dan penerapan sosiologi sastra dalam sastra Melayu moden" [From the Abstract -- The concept of sociology of literature in Malay literature is divided mainly into 3 categories of understanding and application: 1st) Based on the assumption that literature is both ahistorical and asocial, seen as a critical study necessarily confined to scrutinizing the text only and to highlighting the fictive world evoked in the text, the approach favored by Malay critics; 2nd) Is premised on a relationship between a text and its context, which strives to highlight the dynamics between the two; and 3rd) sees the need to locate a literary text within a particular paradigm to best understand the social preoccupations that it addresses -- The 1st dominates the Malay literary world and serves as its knowledge of what constitutes sociology of literature and its application in critical studies], pp 3-16; 2) Chin Yee Whah, "Penang small and medium enterprises: struggle, accommodation and challenges" [From the Abstract -- The ASEAN Free Trade Area became effective in Malaysia since January 2003, and rapid globalization has forced opening national economic boundaries according to WTO rules, which raise questions regarding local companies being able to face the challenges -- What happens to the well-being of the people of Penang if local manufactures cannot compete? -- Analyzes the experiences of Penang's small and medium-scale enterprises and sources?], pp 17-35; 3) Mohd Ekhwan Hj Toriman, "Hakisan muara dan Pantai Kuala Kemaman, Terengganu: permasalahan dimensi fizikal dan sosial" [From the Abstract -- Deals with impacts of erosion in the estuary and coastal area at Kuala Kemaman: 1st) the physical conditions involving the severe erosion of the estuary; and 2nd) the problems of the coastal community in Kuala Kemaman, and their migration to Paya Berenjut], pp 37-55.

>American anthropologist

V.110.n.1 Mar 2008 -- 1) Douglas D Anderson, Review of Bacus, Elisabeth A, & Ian C. Glover & Vincent C. Pigott (eds), 2006, *Uncovering Southeast Asia's past: selected papers from the 10th International Conference of the European Association*

of Southeast Asian Archaeologists, 423 pp, Singapore: NUS Press [Highlights from the review -- a) A collection of 36 conference papers in 2004 -- Covers a broad range of topics, including newly discovered and excavated sites from the Late Pleistocene to the historic periods -- Themes centering on early prehistory, development of social complexity, early states, mortuary practices, urbanism and trade; b) Rasmi Shoocongdej's detailed preliminary analysis of the Tham Lod Rockshelter in NW Thailand containing unifacial flake core tools dated to 36,000 years ago; c) four nearby terminal Pleistocene age burial sites dated between 12,100 & 13,640 BP provide a sample for future DNA analysis to help resolve questions of ancestry and Holocene population movements previously interpreted only through linguistic reconstructions; d) the 40,000 year old Malaysian site Bukit Bunohl provides important new information on the technology of earliest Southeast: Natthamon Pureepatpong identifies numerous core tools as 'handaxes', problemizing the findings in terms of the Movius's (hand axe) line and resurrecting a perspective that had long been discarded; Because some of these 'hand axes' are uniaxially trimmed... do and how did these relate to Hoabinhian core tools in the region; e) Ryan J. Rabett, Philip J. Piper and Graeme Barker provide a preliminary reanalysis of faunal remains from the oldest levels of Niah Cave, Sarawak, yielding new information on subsistence practices of early man in island Southeast Asia, the dating of human remains, including the Niah human skull, confirming the estimation of 34,000 to 45,000 BP -- And much more on prehistory of other parts of Southeast Asia], pp 84-85.

>American ethnologist

V.35.n.2 2008 -- 1) Daniel Martin Varisco review of Engseng Ho, 2006, *The graves of Tarim: genealogy and mobility in the Indian Ocean*, xxvi + 379 pp. Berkeley: University of California Press, Pb ISBN 978-0520-24454-2 [From the electronic review at www.anthrosource.net ... thanks! -- A cultural history of the Yemeni Hadrami migration and diaspora that traces the flow and ebb of overseas trade, religious tutelage and political positioning for an Arab Muslim population oriented to India, Indonesia and Malaysia -- Begins in the Hadramawt region in southern Yemen with a survey of the generations of families in Tarim, the main town involved in the long established diaspora -- The author brings alive a migrants' graveyard, an Adeni shrine dedicated to a Hadrami saint and destroyed by iconoclastic northern Yemeni partisans during civil strife in Tarim, in which those buried "... are no longer fully vested where they are interred and have already moved on" -- A book in 3 parts: a) "Burial"; b) "Genealogical travel"; and c) "returns" --And by the way contextualizes geography & history of the Hadramawt, emphasizing the Sayyids' link back to Ahmad ibn Isa the Migrant and the discursive 'Alwi Way' with its Sufi dimensions -- And much more].

>American journal of Islamic social sciences

V.25.n.1 Wntr 2008 -- 1) Sulaiman, Maliah & Siti Alawiah Siraj & Shahul Hameed Mohamed Ibrahim, "Internal control systems in West Malaysia's state mosques" [From the Abstract -- Embezzlement of funds from religious organizations, particularly in western church institutions, becoming more common, raising concerns whether they experience the same problems as other religious institutions -- Examines the internal control procedures in receiving income and disbursing income

in West Malaysia's state mosques -- Data from questionnaire survey and informal interviews -- Results: these mosques have strong internal control system: segregating duties, recording financial transactions, and authorizing particular activities, which works -- May be benchmark for further studies examining control practices in religious organizations], pp 63-81.

>Anthropologie et sociétés

V.31,n.3 2007 – 1) Veronique Beguet, "Metamorphose et ancestralité: un nouveau regard sur les 'dieux' des Iban de Sarawak (Malaysia)" [From the Abstract – Metamorphosis and Ancestrality: revisiting Sarawak Iban 'Gods' – Suggests that Iban 'gods' are in fact ancestors transformed into birds or animals who sustain human life – Analysis is supported by recourse to contemporary studies about animism, especially following Tim Ingold's relational approach of ancestrality, in which invisible beings of different origins nurture humans – Concerning the ethnographic details, the author's argument enters the debate initiated by Sellato, who considers that only a minority of the deceased become ancestors following a ritual process – That argument is applied to the Iban of Sarawak. However the creation of ancestors is not by means of rituals, but of metamorphosis which creates ancestrality with the aviary and animal kingdoms], pp 127-146.

>Antiquity: a quarterly review of world archaeology

V.81,n.313 Sep 2007 -- 1) Sue O'Connor, "New evidence from East Timor contributes to our understanding of earliest modern human colonization east of the Sunda Shelf" [From the Abstract -- New dates for modern human occupation in East Timor a useful update of colonization of Island Southeast Asia - - From a habitation site dated 38,255 +/- 596 years before present -- Author addresses the difficult questions: why dates for modern humans in Australia were earlier than they are in Island Southeast Asia? Which route did they use? If the southern route, why or how did they manage to bypass Flores, where *H. floresiensis*, the famous non-sapiens hominid known as the 'hobbit' was already in residence? -- New archaeological work at the Jerimalai rock shelter suggests some answers and new research directions -- Sections on: a) dating colonization; b) Jerimalai shelter; c) discussion; d) conclusion (These recent finds from Jerimalai shelter in East Timor demonstrate that modern humans did breach the Wallace Line using a southern route more than 42,000 years ago, suggesting that our current patterning for colonization of the region is suffering from limited sampling of archeological sites; and raise the question of how and why modern human beings successfully settled Timor by 40,000 BP, but failed to colonize Flores], pp 523-535.

>Archipel 75

2008 -- 1) Jorge M. dos Santos Alves & Nader Nasiri-Moghaddam, "*Une lettre en persan de 1519 sur la situation a Malacca*" [From the Abstract -- This document was written in Persian in 1519 by an Asian inhabitant of Malacca who came aboard the fleet of Alfonso d'Albuquerque and was in the storming of the city in 1511 -- Addressed to Portuguese authorities of Cochin it sought compensation and a favor -- Gives a vivid, detailed description of the events that took place in the town during the first 8 years and Portuguese government -- Authors present an annotated translation & endeavor to identify its author, probably a Jew, and comment on the new and valuable data it provides], pp 145-166; 2) Claudine

Salmon, "*La mission de Theodose de Lagrene et les enquetes sur les textiles d'Insulinde (1844-1846)*" [Thru the Treaty of Nanking (1842), Britain obtained permission to trade at 5 'treaty ports' in China, and USA & France negotiated directly with the Manchus -- France appointed Theodose de Lagrene to sign the Treaty of Whampoa (1844) -- Mission accompanied by a commercial delegation to investigate textile industries in China and in all the 'stopover' countries on the way -- Article examines delegation's written reports regarding Malaka, Singapore, Philippines, Batavia and Bogor -- And more], pp167-197; 3) Marlies Salazar, review of Waruno Mahdi, 2007, *Malay words and Malay things: Levical souvenirs for exotic archipelago in German publications before 1700*, 404 pp, Frankfurter Forschungen zu Sudostasien 3, Harrasowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden, ISBN: 978-3-447-05492-8 [One of the importations of Malay words and Malay things into German language and culture -- The author an Indonesian by birth, but spent half of his life in Germany, has drawn a wide panorama of the gradual discovery of Southeast Asia in general, and of Malay words and things in particular, from the 15th century up to 1700 -- He describes first the historical background before going into linguistic details -- A thorough study of an early period of discovery and of language contacts -- Although the approach is mostly philological, it gives much information about life in the Indonesian archipelago], pp 247-250.

>Asian ethnicity

V.9,n.1 Feb 2008 – 1) Norman Vasu, "(En)countering terrorism: multiculturalism and Singapore" [From the website abstract at www.informaworld.com – With national security concerns dominating the agenda for many states and their management of cultural diversity closely scrutinized and yet encouraged, can multi-culturalism's agenda accommodate cultural differences? – Argues that if performed well and permitted to constantly evolve, multiculturalism can be a bulwark against 'home-grown' terrorism – Article in 3 parts: a) defines the terms multi-cultural & multiculturalism, and presents different approaches, stressing diversity of present policies, highlighting policy options ; b) Singapore's policy of multiculturalism located on a continuum & assessed; c) recent alterations to Singaporean multiculturalism, suggesting possible adaptations that may be required of plural societies when encountering extremist ideologies], pp 17-32.

>Asian journal of political science

V.16,n.1 Apr 2008 -- 1) Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani, "Freedom of speech and democracy in Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Seeks to understand the situation of political speech in Malaysia, particularly the argument in favor of restrictions on political speech and problems that prevent political speech from being practiced -- Two particularly sensitive issues, ethnic rivalry and religion, are so taboo that discussion of them is restricted as in Article 10 of the Malaysian Constitution, which limits the right of free speech as a means of guarding political stability and 'racial' (ethnic) harmony, and the government is predisposed to impose political discipline to serve the greater social good – Examines the fact that the government concern for political stability greatly reduces democracy -- Much of the text relates to the Mahathir era -- Sections on a) "Introduction: democracy in Malaysia"; b) "Theories of political speech regulation"; c) "Public security"; d) "Asian values"; e) "Racial issues"; f) "Conclusion"; g) "Notes"; and h) "References"], pp 85-104.

>Asian journal of social science**V.36.n.1 2008**

-- 1) M Shamsul Haque, "Global rise of neo-liberal state and its impact on citizenship: experiences in developing nations" [From the Abstract -- Argues that in recent decades there has been a fundamental shift in the nature of the state worldwide, based on neo-liberal assumptions, policies and programs -- Focuses on developing countries, examining major tenets of a neo-liberal state, especially regarding policy preferences and reorientations, and concludes by exploring some policy alternatives for the revival of such citizenship -- Malaysia and Singapore among many others in the issue], pp 11-34; 2) Habibul Haque Khondker, "Globalization and state autonomy in Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Revisits the concept of state autonomy, noting that earlier literature either considered state autonomy from the social forces in broad institutional and cultural terms or from dominant classes in a restrictive sense; but that in either case, the focus remained on domestic/national society, not global society -- And more], pp 35-56; 3) Zaher Baber, "Global DNA: genomics, the nation - state and globalisation" [From the Abstract -- Globalization influenced the conduct of scientific research in expected and unexpected ways -- Emergence of specific scientific fields has also influenced globalization -- Article analyzes the relationship between globalization and genomics with specific reference to Singapore], pp 104-119; 4) Eric C Thompson, *Review Essay: A world of anthropologies: paradigms and challenges for the coming century* [a) Ribeiro, Gustavo Lins & Arturo Escobar (eds), 2006, *World anthropologies: disciplinary transformations with systems of power*, 341 pp, Oxford: and New York: Berg Publisher, ISBN 13978-184520-1906; b) Van Bremen, Jan & Eyal Ben-Ari & Syed Farid Alatas (eds), 2005, *Asian anthropology*, 249 pp, London & New York: RoutledgeCurzan, ISBN 04153498341; c) Yamashita, Shinji & Joseph Bosco & J S Eades (eds), 2004, *The making of anthropology in East and Southeast Asia*, 374 pp, New York & Oxford: Berghahn Books, ISBN 1571812598 [Sections on "Anthropological hegemony and world systems", "Reconfiguring the anthropological self", "The challenge of postcolonial and methodological nationalism", and "Anthropological pluralism as disciplinary ideal"], pp 121-127.

V.36.n.2 2008

-- 1) Rene E Ofreneo, "Neo-liberalism and the working people of Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- The ASEAN Economic Community marked by a range of specific programs to make economic regionalism successful, but the economic liberalization is narrow & without clear direction of economic development outside itself, and integration is driven by select corporate interests -- Member states are not paying sufficient attention to ASEAN's working population, which should be at the center of development], pp 170-186; 2) Shane N Pereira, "A new religious movement in Singapore: syncretism and variation in the Sathya Sai Baba Movement" [From the Abstract -- Ethnographic study situated in the sociological study of new religious movements (NRMs) -- Explores the nature of the movement's religious framework and its apparent success in pluralistic Singapore by studying the impact of syncretism and ritual variations on the identity of the movement], pp 250-270.

>Asian survey: a bimonthly review of contemporary Asian affairs**V.xlviii.n.3 May/June 2008**

-- 1) John F Bradford, "Shifting the tides against piracy in Southeast Asian waters" [From the

Abstract -- Recent developments in action to combat sea piracy in SEA waters coincide with declining attack rates -- Understanding the nature and causes of the recent gains and future challenges are essential to turn the tide against piracy] pp 473-491.

>Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land-en Volkenkunde**V.163.n.4 2007**

-- 1) Joseph M. Fernando, review of Samuel S. Dhoraisingam, 2006, *Peranakan Indians of Singapore and Melaka*, xiv + 118 pp. Singapore: ISEAS, Pb ISBN 9812303464 [An engaging book on a distinctive and nearly forgotten ethnic community, the Peranakan Indians, aka Chitty Melaka, in Singapore and Melaka -- Reviewer notes that the book provides revealing insight into the history, culture, traditions and norms of a small hybrid community that has retained its unique identity for more than 500 years -- In a simple and clear narrative, the book traces origins of the coming of the Chitty and their survival under four different colonialist powers: Portuguese, Dutch, British, and Japanese -- Later chapters describe present lifestyles, traditions, festivals and ceremonies; and some practices related to fertility, marriage and death -- Also, the book raises some interesting historical arguments, for example, that the Chitty are the 'real' descendants of the earliest Indian merchants in the Malay Archipelago -- A very positive review], pp 569-570.

>Bon appetite**May 2008**

-- 1) Bret Martin, "Kuala Lumpur: street food heaven" [Notes that although the official national motto of Malaysia is *bersekutu bertambah* (unity is strength), the un-official motto of the nation heard in the streets of KL is *jalan-jalan cari makan* (walk around, take a look, eat) -- Features Jalan Alor, Chow Kit, Kampung Baru, Pudu, and Petaling Jaya; a recipe for char kway teow, and descriptions of other delicious foods -- Thanks to BP], pp 202-209.

>Canadian journal of communications**V.33.n.1 2008**

-- 1) Sandra Smeltzer, "Biotechnology, the environment, and alternative media in Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- The Malaysian government's ambitious path to biotechnology as a key driver of future economic success -- Bio-tech being developed by a state with a problematic environmental track record, does not bode well for the future -- Government controls mainstream media through restrictive laws and hegemonic pressures to self-censor innovation, and is critical of biotechnology because of its implicit ties to the environment -- Article focuses on the relative scarcity of critical discussions about these issues in the country's vital alternative media -- Problems: government restrictions on available information, the complexity of relevant issues, a lack of recognition of the industry's importance, and the tenuous relationship between environmental NGOs and alternative media practitioners and organizations], pp 5-20.

>Contemporary Southeast Asia**V.30.n.1 2008**

-- 1) Michael J Green & Daniel Twining, "Democracy and American grand strategy in Asia: the realist principles behind an enduring idealism" [From the Abstract and text-- Has democracy promotion been discredited as a central theme of American foreign policy after the US experience in Iraq? Many critics appear to believe so -- However this may not be true, particularly regarding Asia, because there is not in fact a tension between US material power and its ideals as a democracy; and post-Bush leaders

identify and embrace promotion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Asia-Pacific democracies as central to the US regional strategy -- Finally, democracy promotion and security cooperation among like-minded democracies will remain a central objective of American policy in Asia, particularly China and ASEAN -- A few particular mentions of Singapore and Malaysia], pp 1-28; 2) Jim Rolfe, "Regional security for the Asia-Pacific: ends and means" [From the Abstract and text -- Despite calls over the years for the Asia-Pacific region, or some set of it, to develop a regional security regime, no deliberate action to achieve this has been taken -- Considers possible ends of a regional security regime and means towards achieving them... but this is not to say that this will be impossible -- Some mention of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei], pp 99-117; 3) Andrew Symon, "Southeast Asia's nuclear power thrust: putting ASEAN'S effectiveness to the test?" [From the Abstract -- Possibility of nuclear power in Southeast Asia to help meet huge growth in electricity demand has suddenly risen in government planning -- Malaysia and the Philippines are studying the option; and Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand have plans for nuclear power generation; which raise many environmental and security and economic issues -- But how SEA governments will go about implementing nuclear power is still not known], 118-139; 4) Sheldon W. Simon, review of James A. Tyner, 2007, *America's strategy in Southeast Asia: from the Cold War to the Terror War*, 240 pp, Plymouth UK, Rowman & Littlefield [From the review -- A scholarly polemical condemnation of Western imperialism and neo-colonialism in general and of American depredations in particular from the 19th century to the present day -- For the most part well researched and written -- Reviewer notes that the book belongs in the new left tradition of the 1960s & 1970s and world systems analysis of the 1980s -- Underlying argument is that all world regions are social constructs that are determined by the most powerful actors... since WW II the USA -- Reviewer says that the author's Southeast Asia does not square with the region most contemporary analysts study... one that has witnessed over the past 25 years the rise of educated, entrepreneurial middle classes in several ASEAN states... especially Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are all on an upward economic trajectory], pp 150-151.

>Critical Asian studies

V.40.n.1 Mar 2008 -- 1) Lily Zubaidah Rahim, "Fragmented community and unconstructive engagements: Asean and Burma's SPDC regime" [From the Abstract -- Asean's political elites lack the will to pressure the SPDC regime to resolve the political crisis in Burma thru democratic means -- Analyzes factors that have underpinned Asean's commitment to preserve its principle of nonintervention and state sovereignty despite repeated human rights violations in Burma -- Is the recently unveiled Asean Charter an elite-driven initiative that is not intended to challenge the nonintervention principle? -- Essay concludes by analyzing the dynamics underpinning Singapore-Burma relations with a view of Asean's fragmented community, which is dominated by authoritarian states not committed to promoting democracy and human rights... much less resolving the political crisis in Burma], pp 67-88.

>Development: gender and fisheries

V.51.n.2 Jun 2008 -- 1) Barbara S Nowak, "Environmental degradation and its gendered impact on coastal livelihoods options among Btisi' households of Peninsular Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Examines gender relations among an indigenous coastal community traditionally engaged in maritime-related activities -- Explores the diversity in livelihood activities that form the basis of community resource management adaptation that openly invited and supported women's full participation in fisheries activities -- Environmental damage and over-exploitation of resources have limited the livelihood options and left them with little ability to absorb shocks], pp 186-192.

>Environment and planning

V.40.n.3 Mar 2008 -- 1) Jane M Jacobs & Stephen Cairns, "The modern touch: interior design and modernisation in post-independence Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Focus is advice on interior design and decoration that Singapore's Housing Development (HDB) distributed to residents in its program of universal housing provision -- A series appearing in a HDB publication, *Our Home* (1972-1989), was presented with stories to readers that showed how selected HDB residents decorated their newly acquired high rise flats -- Authors detail relationships between design advice, commitment to modernist design principles, the self-conscious pragmatism of the HDB, and the reliance on a limited market logic ('homeownership') -- HDB's vision of the benefit of its high rise housing program was completely entangled with cultivating individual investments in the home by way of interior design and decoration practices], pp 572-595.

>Far Eastern economic review (visit web at www.feer.com)

V.171.n.3 Apr 2008 -- 1) "Travelers tales: Lassie go home" [Fear of the experience when going through customs with a few pirated DVD movies? -- Well, now you should really start to sweat like a Columbian with 50 condoms full of cocaine in you gut! -- According to a *Jakarta Post* (3 Mar 2008) report, Malaysian authorities have imported two DVD-sniffing dogs trained to signal the scent of chemicals in DVDs to catch criminals sneaking illegal DVDs into the country], p 80.

V.171.n.6 Jul/Aug 2008 -- 1) Bernard K. Gordon, "Let the beef protests end the era of FTAS" [While the USA/Korean Free Trade Agreement was signed a year ago, the USA Congress and Seoul's National Assembly have yet to approve it -- Also some sticking points in the USA/Australia FTA; Singapore/Chile FTA ; as well as similar sticking points with USA FTA partners Malaysia and Thailand -- And more] pp 18-20; 2) Jonathan Anderson, "Balancing the risks of inflation in Asia" [Inflation the single biggest threat to Asian economic stability -- Except for the immediate aftermath of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, even the worst performers reported sleepy price-growth rates, and since 2000 the numbers have been comatose; Less than 1% year after year CPI inflation in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China in the first half of the decade; Only marginally higher in Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand; But no more, as of mid 2008, it is more difficult to find Asian countries with consumer price inflation rates less than 5% year on year, Even Singapore's inflation rate has jumped to 8% -- Suggests what to do] pp 21-29; 3) Edmund Terence Gomez, "Jockeying for power in the New Malaysia" [It is back to the future for Malaysian politics -- In 2008, 2 months after a ban on Anwar's holding office expired and was gathering votes to bring down

the government of PM Abdullah, new accusations of sexual misconduct are surfacing as of old, and Anwar says he has received death threats, and has found shelter in the Turkish Embassy -- Whatever the similarities of these events to those of a decade ago, there are real differences... which the author examines in detail], pp 30-34; 4) Sadanand Dhume, review of Lee Harris, *The suicide of reason: radical Islam's threat to the West*, 312 pp, Basic Books [From the very brief 'abstract' and the review -- "At its core the debate over terrorism and Islamism is about what people believe and how they act on those beliefs" -- Also notes that while "a Portuguese or Chilean Catholic who favors contraception and gay rights is free to declare that he couldn't care less what the Bible says or the Pope thinks... his Malaysian or Bangadeshi counterpart who shows similar disregard for Islam is either very brave or very foolish"... And also notes "... the never-ending quest by liberal Muslim intellectuals, such as those associated with Malaysia's Sisters in Islam or Indonesia's Liberal Islam Network, to define what constitutes 'authentic' Islam"], pp 62-64.

>International journal of sociology of the family

V.34,n.1 Spring 2008 -- 1) Lindsay Larson Call, Rachel Sheffield, Elisabeth Trail, Keitaro Yoshida, and E. Jeffrey Hill, "Singapore's falling fertility: exploring the influence of the work-family interface" [From the Abstract -- Since the 1950s, Singapore has experienced a precipitous fertility decline -- Studies have addressed this decline, but have not explored the influence of the work-family interface -- Explores work and family variables associated with actual and desired family size based on a nationally representative sample of 706 Singaporeans -- Shows Singaporeans tend not to achieve their ideal family size and that financial constraint is the most common reason for not having more children -- While education and income are positively related to childless individuals' desire for children; those with more children tend to report lower education and income -- Workplace flexibility the top concern, although not significantly related to family size or childbearing intentions -- Potential explanations and directions for further research discussed], pp 91-113.

>Journal of current Southeast Asian affairs

1/2008 -- 1) Terence Gomez, "Ethnicity, equity and conflict in multi-ethnic countries: a case study of Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Assesses 2 hypotheses on causes of ethnic conflict: a) argues that democratic multi-ethnic countries where minority communities dominate the economy, and ethno-nationalist politicians mobilize the support of economically impoverished majority groups, racial conflagration will occur -- An authoritarian system is therefore required until parity in equity ownership is achieved among all communities -- b) argues/ posits that daily civic engagement between ethnic groups helps contain racial conflict -- What divides nations is the divisive politics of ethnicity by self-serving politicians -- These hypotheses are tested through a study of multi-ethnic and authoritarian Malaysia], pp 38-65; 2) Andreas Ufen, "Cleavages and voter mobilization in Southeast Asia: Indonesia and Malaysia in comparison" [From the Abstract -- Indonesian and Malaysian political party systems characterized by conflict patterns that can be analyzed with the cleavage model by Lipset and Rokkan -- Both countries' voters mobilized on the basis of fundamental divides -- In Malaysia, voter mobilization

takes place along these divides but also, with reference to the ruling party coalition, by means of patronage politics, the use of state-controlled mass media, and powerful administrative machinery -- In Indonesia the politicization of cleavages is also important; But in Malaysia the divides are not so conspicuous because of cross-cutting cleavages and a tendency by political parties to form cartels ... Political platforms are rather nebulous and do not offer policy alternatives ... Instead the attachment to certain social milieus and ideologies are addressed -- In Malaysia, cleavages are mirrored in the social composition of party activists and supporters, and in the political platforms of parties, and in the way coalitions are built -- But there is a disconnection in Indonesia between rhetoric and realpolitik], pp 67-84.

>Journal of the economic and social history of the Orient

V.51,pt1 2008 -- 1) Freek Colombijn, review of Jeyamalar Kathirithamby-Wells, 2005, *Nature and nation: forests and development in Peninsular Malaysia* (Man & Nature in Asia Series, n.9), Copenhagen/Singapore: NIAS Press/Singapore U. Press, xxxvii + 487 pp, Pb ISBN: 87-91114-49-7 [From the review -- Traces the history of human influence on the forests of Peninsular Malaysia, focusing on the impact of the development of the state on the forests -- The omnipresence of the forests has helped to give Malaysia its present shape -- Review covers the span of time from the 18th into the 21st century -- Covers the ecology of the rainforests, the peoples living within them, and others (such as rajas) who controlled the trade in forest products, British colonial officials who sponsored botanical investigations regarding agricultural enterprise and the extension of colonial power (at the same time repressing Malay and Orang Asli uses of forests for agriculture and trade) -- The central thesis of the book is that development has driven a wedge between humans and the forests, and that the division of state power over the the constituent states of the Malaysian Federation weakened implementation of federal forestry laws and coordination of the exploitation of the forests -- And more], pp 151-179.

V.51,pt.3 2008 -- 1) Kenneth Hall, review of Nordin Hussin, 2007, *Trade and society in the Straits of Melaka: Dutch Melaka and English Penang, 1780-1830*, xxxvii + 388 pp, Singapore: NIAS/NUS Press, ISBN: 978-87-91114-88-5 [Breaks new ground in its comparative urban study of the Melaka and Penang colonial ports-of-trade, and is consistent with the strengths and weaknesses of the author's Leiden mentors' research -- Book's focus on the shipping lists and records of people in the Dutch and British East India Company as well as other colonial records, highlighting the previously underutilized harbormaster's registers of private traffic, exploring and analyzing ships' volume, transported commodities and dominant participants in commerce and government of the period -- It is a solid statistical analysis of trade, commodity, and urban population data... goes beyond the VOC archives -- Missing is any attempt to explore the variety of records of the British 'country traders' who were important in the origin of Penang and British rule in Burma and Malaya -- And also overly confined to Southeast Asia in its considerations & applications of data], pp 530-538.

>Malaysian business

Oct1st-15th 2007 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thoughts: ensuring budget performance and integrity" [Conflicting statistics regarding the presented budget don't augur well for

the nation -- All efforts must be concentrated on making certain that discrepancies are not repeated in the future to avoid suspicion and distrust -- Consider that the PM could be making budgetary promises that neither the government nor the economy can sustain, which will a lot of harm to the performance of the budget and the integrity of the government -

- A section labeled "The number's game" details discrepancies regarding budget promised and actual budget; A second section on "Protecting Malaysian companies" discussing Singapore's and other foreigners' slice of the pie; And a third section on "Can the Judiciary handle another setback?", regarding the controversy surrounding the appointment of the President of the Appeal Court and the Chief Judge of Malaya is hardly over when another one has cropped up... taking the form of a video recording purportedly of a prominent lawyer discussing the appointment of judges with a top judge], pp 6-8;

2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: a breach of trust" [Year in and year out, the Auditor-General's Report highlights abuse and corruption in government departments and statutory bodies; and year in and year out, no stern action is taken -- So how on earth are we to cultivate a culture of transparency and accountability? -- How do you explain a set of technical pens that normally cost RM 160 in the market being billed to the government for RM 1,146.56?], p 10;

3) Johannes Ridu & James S, "Malaysian economy: the changes ahead" [With the 2008 budget tabled, development projects at various stages of implementation, and commodity prices at record highs, how well positioned is Malaysia to face the uncertainties... Including a possible US economic slowdown -- Ahead? What more needs to be done?], pp 25-38;

Oct16th-31st 2007 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thoughts: taking a Toll on the Rakyat" [The recent announcement of yet another toll price hike from Jan 1 next year (2008) has marred the festive mood of the people, who have had to put up with one price increase after another in the last couple of years -- Despite this, the government is adamant that the inflation rate is nothing to worry about... how can this be? -- Despite a slew of price and rate increases in recent years, government continues to claim a low rate... 2% for the first 7 months of this year, according to the 2007/2008 *Treasury economic report*], pp 6-8;

2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: enhancing governance" [While recent changes to the *Malaysian code on corporate governance* augurs well for transparency and the like, implementation might be a problem - Why not make adherence to the code compulsory by incorporating it in the listing requirements? Surely, it is important enough to do so?], p 10;

Nov1st-15th 2007 -- 1) Charles Raj, "Commentary: give election commission a free hand" [Recent insinuation that the Election Commission is not free to function independently is disturbing -- The government should make sure that it is an independent body if we are to have any credibility on the world stage -- Government of the day must ensure we do not become the laughing stock of the world in conducting elections -- Allowing the EC to be truly independent will ensure that], p 12;

Nov16th-30th 2007 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: a pre-election assembly" [That the general election is soon is obvious, judging from subjects raised and the tone used at the recent Umno General Assembly -- The question is: Can the ruling coalition sustain the record breaking mandate it won in the last election in the

face of several issues plaguing the nation? -- In the case of Abdullah, his massive 2004 mandate could end up being his Achilles' heel, because of his many promises, such as fighting graft, improving the public sector delivery system and maintaining price stability... which have been unfulfilled -- Peaceful assemblies are the constitutional right of every Malaysian, but when the police, at the behest of their political masters, refuse to issue permits to hold public gatherings, it automatically makes this beloved country or ours less democratic], pp 6-8;

2) James S, "ECER: more than just oil and gas" [The East Coast Economic Region, the latest in a series of regional development plans launched this year, will attempt to bring Malaysia's poor East Coast states to the economic forefront, with 227 projects stretching over 12 years...which companies besides those in oil and gas, will likely benefit from this grand plan?], pp 40-43.

Dec 1st-15th 2007 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: the government's rites of passage" [Rising inflation, protesters demanding anything from cleaner general elections to more rights and an ongoing dispute with Singapore on the sovereignty of Pulau Batu Puteh are some of the issues plaguing the current administration as it gears up to govern for another term -- Can it rise above these sticky issues in the next general election?], pp 7-10;

2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: when patients are the losers" [As private healthcare practitioners raise prices, it is the patients who suffer, as the rising costs are inevitably passed on to them -- The question is: who is monitoring these price hikes], p 12.

Dec 16th-31st 2007 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Stand by the law" [In expressing dissatisfaction with the powers that be, the ballot box, not racism, communalism or extremism, is the most powerful tool for change -- Could the PM, who is also Minister of Internal Security, be preparing the people, including his foreign friends and allies, that the use of the ISA is eminent, inevitable and imperative?], pp 5-7;

2) Charles Raj, "How relevant is Suhakam?" [The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) has come up with many reports on human rights abuse in the country -- Unfortunately, many of these reports have gone unheeded -- So, why waste taxpayers' money on up-keeping it? -- It would be a slap in the face for the government if the relevant authorities show disrespect to Suhakam, or for that matter, the country's other commissions], p 8.

Jan1st-15th 2008 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: the ISA is not a cure-all" [As expected, the heavy hand of the Internal Security Act fell on the five masterminds of the Hindu Rights Action Force or HIndraf demonstration last November when arrested and detained for 2 years -- As discerning Malaysians would say, this is not the way to handle the problem -- Will the effect be known in the coming general election?], pp 7-9;

2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: call for transparency" [The Employees' Provident Fund is withdrawing a multi-billion ringgit suit against 6 former top executives of the RHB Group... The reasons? -- With contributions pouring in at the rate of RM100 million per month, the EPF cannot afford to make costly blunders... there is just too much at stake], p 10.

Jan16th-31st 2008 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: negative news' impact on the election" [From the sensational story of Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek's pornographic DVD to the rising crime rate and essential food items' shortage, Malaysians have had their hands full since the new year -- How will these negative stories manifest themselves in the coming general

elections?] pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Bakun puzzle" [With Sarawak's demand for electricity far greater than that of the peninsula, does it really make financial sense to lay billions of ringgits worth of undersea cables for the state's Bakun Hydroelectric dam project to supply electricity to the peninsula? -- Bakun will have a ready buyer in 2011... Why wait for another 3 years before being able to sell electricity? ... Why take the risk?... What if there are insufficient buyers then?], p 10.

>South East Asia research

V.16.n.1 Mar 2008 -- 1) Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman, "Towards a history of Malaysian ulama" [From the Abstract -- Traces the religio-political role of ulama in Malaysia, arguing that historically that they have maintained a symbiotic relationship with various political authorities, from early Islamic history to the Japanese occupation, and even recent Parti Islam Se-Malaysia opposition to UMNO (usually working with any power willing to secure their authority and influence)], pp 117-140.

>The economist

Apr19th-25th 2008 -- 1) "The Thai police: a law unto themselves" [A broad base of Thai police and Army corruption - - A paragraph relating corruption in southern Thailand: 'Last year 751 people died in prison or police custody. Abuses by police (and soldiers) have worsened an insurgency in Thailand's mainly Muslim southern provinces, in which 3,000 people have died since 2004. Predictably, opinion polls show the police are widely mistrusted.' -- And more], p 55.

May3rd-9th 2008 -- 1) "Malaysia: the winds of change" [Could the opposition take power after 51 years?...(!) -- As Malaysia's new parliament opened this week, a change was in the air not felt since 1957 -- The governing coalition, led by UMNO was panicking after its poorest ever showing, in the general election held in March -- Led by the opposition, 'Knives' were out for PM Abdullah Badawi, -- Leader of the opposition, Anwar Ibrahim, claimed that at least 30 members of Parliament from the ruling coalition are preparing to defect, which would be enough for the Opposition to take power -- PM Abdullah Badawi, fending off calls for his resignation, said that after UMNO's annual conference (which he postponed until December) he will discuss handing UMNO leadership to his deputy, Nabib Razak; but not soon enough according to his predecessor (Mahathir Mohamad) and Razaleigh Hamzah (former finance minister and rival of Dr. Mahathir), both heavy weight members of UMNO -- And many more details], p 54.

May24th-30th 2008 -- 1) "ASEAN, Indonesia and Myanmar: forcing help on Myanmar" [ASEAN needs to play a bigger role in its region, and Indonesia a bigger role in ASEAN -- 3 long weeks after a cataclysmic cyclone in Myanmar, a weak international relief effort at last got under way -- The ruling junta was reluctant to allow foreigners to help desperate Burmese citizens -- In part, the 'ASEAN way' (sibling advice rather than brow-beating) eventually worked, but the 'concessions' to let ASEAN help were too little and too late... and Indonesia should have had a bigger role -- ASEAN member states said to have been most supportive of Myanmar are Singapore and Indonesia... perhaps because they too have been authoritarian states?], pp 21-22; 2) "Global housing markets: structural cracks" [The Economist's house-price indicators for 20 countries: Singapore and Hong Kong prices for houses have

gained most, Malaysia not listed, and USA prices have lost the most value], pp 95-96. **May31st-Jun6th 2008** -- 1) "Fuel subsidies: crude measures" [Malaysia has one of the biggest fuel-subsidy bills in the world, estimated at as much as 7% of GDP this year -- By holding down the price of petrol, Malaysia now has the lowest inflation rate of all the 32 emerging economies tracked by *The Economist*; But the government is expected to allow prices to rise soon to curb its widening budget deficit], p 75; 2) "Economic and financial indicators: overview" [Malaysia's central bank kept its benchmark interest rate at 3.5%, but said it would act if the risks of higher inflation grew], p 101. **Jun7th-13th 2008** -- 1) "Asia's navies: into the wide blue yonder" [Singapore: Asia's main powers are building up their navies... Is this the start of an arms race? -- As Asia's defense ministers and military chiefs gathered in Singapore last weekend for their main annual summit, the Shangri-La Dialogue (organized by the IISS), the conclusion of analysts seemed to be 'Not yet' -- A classic arms race consists of two main countries that have one dominating dispute; But Asia is different, it has the makings of a pair of opposing alliances: a) a quad group (India, USA, Australia & Japan) plus b) Singapore: now conduct naval maneuvers together -- Then there is China and Pakistan (but China and India seem keen to avoid provoking each other -- And more], pp 53-54. **Jun14th-20th 2008** -- 1) "Islam and the West: when religions talk" [Religious leaders, scholars and business people are meeting all over the world to argue about free speech and Islamic sensibilities... how much does this achieve -- Lots of talk and no shortage of business leaders and politicians interested in relations with Islam and the West who are natural supporters of 'interfaith' initiatives -- Examples: 'They are ... found in wealthy and pro-Western Muslim lands such as Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and Malaysia' -- At a meeting this week in Malaysia, the question was '... how, if at all, freedom of speech can be reconciled with the Muslim demand for a ban on public statements or cultural products that offend Islamic sensibilities... and that question was addressed in a way that frightened the relatively few participants whose understanding of civil rights was rooted in a Western, liberal world-view'], pp 74-75; 2) "Economic and financial indicators: leading centres of commerce" [Singapore ranked 6th], p 114. **June 21st-27th 2008** -- 1) "Economic and financial indicators: tariff barriers" [Hong Kong and Singapore have the least restrictive trade policies, according to the 2008 *World trade indicators* published by the World Bank], p 118. **Jul5th-11th 2008** -- 1) "Malaysia: here we go again" [Allegations against Anwar Ibrahim may backfire on the government -- "In few countries does the word 'sodomy' evoke a sense of political *deja vu*... Malaysia is one" -- On June 28th a male volunteer working for the political campaign of Anwar Ibrahim reported to the police that Anwar had sexually assaulted him -- Anwar called the accusation a complete fabrication, and took refuge in the Turkish embassy (and he left it the next day claiming that it was not true, but a diversion stopped his plan to stand for a by-election) -- The accusation was widely believed to be politically motivated and not true -- Also, a brief history of Anwar's political past and possible future as a political leader and 'Islamist'], pp 51-52. **Jul12th-18th 2008** -- 1) K Bhavani (press secretary to the minister for information, communication and the arts) "Letters: bloggers in Singapore" [Complains that

no bloggers have been jailed in Singapore for 'posting materials that those in power dislike', as published in *The Economist* ("Blog standard", June 28th) -- Says that there is no such offence under Singaporean law, but two bloggers have been jailed and another put on probation for posting virulently racist remarks that could damage racial harmony; and another blogger faces charges for writing that a female High Court judge had 'prostituted' herself in a case that she was trying -- And that unless standards are upheld there is no basis for freedom], p 20.

The Islamic quarterly

V.51.n.2 1427/2007 -- 1) Zailan Moris, "The problems and challenges faced by Muslim families in present day Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Malays comprise about 60% of the population of Malaysia and are the dominant ethnic group of the Muslim *ummah* in the country -- Author deals with the Malay family as the model of a Malaysian Muslim family -- 3 parts of the article: a) Brief account of the structure of the traditional Malay-Muslim family; b) Highlights of some of the major problems and challenges that Malay-Muslim families face; c) Discusses some of the important measures taken by the Malaysian government to preserve and strengthen the family], pp 95-108; 2) Jasni bin Sulong, "The socio-historic growth of the law of inheritance among Muslims in Southeast Asia" [Sections on: a) the coming of Islam; b) school of law; c) practice of the law of inheritance; d) the influence of *adat* law; e) the Muslim law of inheritance under colonial occupation; and f) recent application of the Islamic law of inheritance], pp 109-127.

V.51.n.4 1427/2007 -- 1) Zailan Moris, "*Islam Hadhari*: the Malaysian approach to Islam in the 21st Century" [From the Abstract -- Deals with the national program and agenda of *Islam Hadhari* as put forth by Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, current and 5th PM of Malaysia -- *Islam Hadhari* deals with concerns and challenges of modern, contemporary living in a multi-religious Malaysia within an Islamic framework -- Examines some of the salient features in the present discussion of *Islam Hadhari* as expounded by government officials and institutions, and the criticisms and objections that have been raised by Islamic scholars, the Islamic political opposition party (PAS) and ordinary Malaysians], pp 293-313.

>The journal of Asian studies

V.67.n.2 May 2008 -- 1) Kuei-Fen Chiu, "Empire of the Chinese sign: the question of Chinese diasporic imagination in transnational literary production" [From the Abstract -- Begins with examining the growth of interest in literatures in Chinese -- Article examines the intersection of Chinese Malaysian literature and Taiwan literature at two specific moments of transnational literary production ... the late 1970s to the mid-1980s, and the late 1990s to the present... to demonstrate the unstable meanings of the diaspora sign -- Highlights the importance of historicization in investigating phenomena of transnational cultural production and the need to reincorporate the notion of 'place' into our agenda in conducting cultural critiques -- Ends with a critique of the global city as a methodological concept, arguing for a place paradigm without privileging the global city as a metaphor for transnational space -- Sections on: "The rise of studies in literatures in Chinese and the rise of 'Global China'", "Chinese Malaysian writers and the

transnational moment of literary production in the 1970s to mid-1980s"; "The place of 'Diasporic imagination'; Chinese Malaysian writers in Taiwan and transnational literary production in the late 1990s"; "The intervention of 'Place-based imagination' in studies in Chinese literatures";], pp 593-620; 2) Rita Smith Kipp, review of Joel S. Kahn, 2006, *Other Malays: nationalism and cosmopolitanism in the modern Malay World*, 224 pp, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, doi: 10.1017/S0021911808001083 [From summarizing comments in the review -- The author sets about to deconstruct the myth of the indigenous Malay, and that cultural work of Malay nationalists has entailed defining and reshaping disparate immigrants as 'Malays' -- With its historical and cultural focus, *Other Malays* provides an important complement to social and political analyses of contemporary Malaysian politics -- Kahn brings his own scholarship and a substantive array of other materials into theoretical discussion of postcolonial modernity and hybridity -- And more] pp 742-743.

>The journal of comparative Asian development

V.7.n.1 Spring 2008 -- 1) Noore Alam Siddiquee, "Globalization and transformations of public administration: the Malaysian experience" [From the conclusion -- Malaysia seems to have followed the global trend in its attempt to face the complexities and challenges of globalization -- The advent of globalization and its offshoot NPM the government of Malaysia has introduced administrative reforms like those introduced elsewhere, although these have remained superficial in many areas -- These reforms and transformations are nothing but Malaysia's response to the fast changing local and global environment -- While the reforms are seen as steps in the right direction and have led to some improvements in several areas of service delivery, there is still a feeling that not all is well with reforms -- Reforms have not produced intended benefits and in some areas they have been the cause of serious concerns and public unease -- The particular nature of Malaysia's political economy in which ethnic politics dominates, power remains highly concentrated and the distinction between politics and business is blurred has undermined the effectiveness of reform measures -- And more], pp 1-26.

The journal of international communication

V.14.n.1 2008 -- 1) Kiranjit Kaur & Sankaran Ramanathan "Wither media regulations?: experiences of Malaysia and Singapore" [From the 'Introduction' of the issue, by Naren Chitty -- Compares recent developments in Malaysia and Singapore, which are proximate siblings under the old British Empire, that have media laws introduced in the colonial period and never scrapped after independence -- Both nations are on a trip along the Information Superhighway with new PMs in the drivers' seats, Kaur & Ramanathan speculate whether archaic media laws and restrictive policies will give way to media freedom], pp 7-27; 2) Sandra Smeltzer, "Blogging in Malaysia: hope for a new democratic technology?" [Examines the issue of democratization thru the explosion in the blogosphere, providing an overview of Malaysia's politically contentious blogography, noting that despite the authorities' promise of an uncensored internet, and bloggers being allowed effectively to publish without a license, bloggers continue to be subjected to numerous legal constraints], pp 28-45.

The Pacific review

V.21.n.2 May 2008 -- 1) Ka Ho Mok & Ray Yep (guest editors),

"Globalization and state capacity in Asia" [An introduction, critical assessment and summary of the other six articles in this volume -- Sections on a) 'Globalization and the quest for the competition state'; b) 'Globalization and governance: bringing the state back in'; c) 'The demise of developmental states in Asia: myth or reality?' -- Quite a bit of Singapore and Malaysia content, reflecting discussion of the three following articles], pp 109-120; **2)** Anthony B L Cheung, "The story of two administrative states: state capacity in Hong Kong and Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Singapore and Hong Kong viewed as typical administrative states with efficient administration and vibrant market that gained rapid economic growth in past decades -- Examines the trajectory of their state capacity, recent problems and challenges with a framework capturing and linking four dimensions: polity, bureaucracy, economy and civil society... and their similarities and differences discussed -- Their experiences relevant to transitional authoritarian states in Asia, such as China, which faces similar challenges in politics, administration, economics and society], pp 121-145; **3)** Ka Ho Mok, "Varieties of regulatory regimes in Asia: the liberalization of the higher education market and changing governance in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Many Asian states have been in the forefront of effort to improve national competitiveness by raising their higher education enrolment rate -- State funding alone will not satisfy the growing demand for higher education, and Asian governments adopt more pro-competition policy instruments and look to market/private sectors to run higher education -- Private higher education has paid much of the higher education sector expansion -- Article examines the rise of transnational higher education in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia], pp 147-170; **4)** M. Ramesh & Xun Wu, "Realigning public and private health care in Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- Compares health policy trends in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to draw usable lessons in reform -- Finds that governments in the region are rapidly privatizing the provision of healthcare as they are expanding the governments role in financing -- Argues that expansion of public financing at the same time as private provision is misconceived because the combination aggravates severity of market failures peculiar to the sector... particularly in Indonesia and the Philippines -- Malaysia occupies a mid-position between Indonesia and the Philippines on the one hand and Thailand on the other], pp 171-187.

>Third World quarterly

V.29.n.4 2008 -- **1)** Christopher M Dent, "The Asian Development Bank and developmental regionalism in East Asia" [From the Abstract -- Paper argues that the ADB's role here has become more significant because of the strong 'developmental' characteristics of East Asia's new regionalism, not least because, as a regional development bank, the ADB has a predilection for linking development, regionalism and capacity-building together when promoting regional cooperation and integration (RCI) in Asia -- Refers to this as 'developmental regionalism', where RCI activities are particularly oriented to enhancing the economic capacity and prospects of less developed countries with the view of strengthening their integration into the regional economy, and bring greater

coherence to regional community building overall -- Some Malaysian and Singaporean content and context], pp 767-786.

>Visual anthropology review

V.24.n.1 Spring 2008 -- **1)** D S Farrer, "The healing arts of the Malay mystic" [From www.anthrosource.net -- The legacy of Alfred Gell offers a rich stock of ingenious ideas to apply and extend to the thought-provoking artwork of Mohammad Din Mohammad, who combines the skills of the Malay martial art (*silat*) with the knowledge of the traditional Malay healer, to press life, breath and divine power into his painting and sculpture -- The artist's work opens a gateway to the unseen realm by painting motifs derived from Quran with his hands -- Artwork serves as a protective talisman during vulnerable spiritual moments, such as birth, marriage, fasting, and death -- During crisis, power stored in the artwork may be unleashed to counter attacks from ghosts, vampires, or other nefarious creatures -- And more], pp 29-46.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

>**Ahmad, Abu Talib & Liok Ee Tan (eds)** --2008--**New terrains in Southeast Asian history**, 418 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-269-8 [From the catalog -- Captures the richness and diversity of historical discourse among Southeast Asian scholars who live and work within the region, providing a rare opportunity to enter the world of Southeast Asian historiography -- Book contends that new terrains in Southeast Asian history may be found "at the interstices and on the margins" where nations, societies, or cultures engage the unending process of historical change.]

>**Aphornsuvan, Thanet** --2007-- **Rebellion in Southern Thailand: contending histories** (Policy Studies, No. 35), xi+90 pp. Washington, D.C.: East-West Center; Singapore: ISEAS Publishing. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-474-2 [From the website -- Addresses competing histories of Thailand and Patani beginning in the 14th century to the mid-20th century, providing an explanation of the causes of ongoing political conflict between Malay Muslims in the 3 southern most provinces and the Thai government -- The source of conflict include the political status of Patani, ethnic identity, Bangkok politics, and bureaucratic misconduct in the south, have deep historical roots.]

>**Aw, Tash** --2006-- **The Harmony Silk Factory**, 416 pp. Penguin Group (USA). ISBN: 9781594481741 [From website www.us.penguin.com -- About a textiles store run by Johnny Lim, a Chinese peasant living in rural Malaya in the first 50 years of the 20thC. -- To Inhabitants of Kinta Valley, communist Johnny Lim is a hero who fought the Japanese in WWII; but his son is a collaborator who considered him a crook -- 3 perspectives: Johnny's, his beautiful wife's, and the son's.]

>**Chung, R C K & H T W Tan** --2006--**The angiosperm flora of Singapore: Erythroxylaceae**, 8 (?) pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971693640 [Description from the NUS website (www.nus.edu.sg) -- Aim is to catalogue, describe and illustrate in detail, all extant & extinct species of flowering plants that have been recorded to occur in Singapore (about 2,400 species in 173 families -- Series consists of individual booklets for each family, and information on palaeo-geography, human impact, climate, geology, soils, biogeography, vegetation and conclusions -- Scientific line drawings and/or black & white photographs included.)

>**Comber, Leon** --2008--**Malaya's secret police 1945-60: the**

role of the the Special Branch in the Malayan Emergency, 324 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-815-3 [From website – Analyzes the pivotal role of the Special Branch in defeating the communist uprising and safeguarding the security of Malaya – Shows for the first time how the Special Branch was organized and how it worked in providing the security forces with political and operational intelligence – Book a major contribution to understanding the Emergency – Worth ‘mining’ for lessons through comparison with counterinsurgency operations in other parts of the world.]

>**Hansen, Michael W & Henrik Schaumburg-Muller (eds)**, -- 2006-- **Transnational corporations and local firms in developing countries: linkages and upgrading**, 398 pp. Copenhagen Business School Press. Pb ISBN: 978-87-630-0175-5 [From the ISBS catalog & www.isbs.com – About the organization and effects of linkages between transnational corporations (mainly Dutch) and local firms in developing countries – Analyzed countries: Malaysia, Ghana, India, South Africa and Vietnam – Book contributes to the emerging literature on firm strategies in developing countries – Provides new empirical evidence of multi-faceted and complex of cross-border inter-firm linkages, while documenting that even small firms in developed and developing countries can benefit from cross-border linkages.]

>**Heath, Christopher & Kung-Chung Liu (eds)** –2007-- **Copyright law and the information society in Asia**, 276 pp. Oxford: Hart Publishing. Pb ISBN: 978-1-84113-654-7 [From the ISBS catalog & www.isbs.com – Compares US and European approaches, inspecting the six most important topics arising from copyright law in the information society – Issues are analyzed in separate country reports: Malaysia, Singapore, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Thailand and the Philippines – Examined are: the expansion of copyright law and its social justification; internet trade, digital works, and parallel imports; collective exercise of copyrights; the law on anti-circumvention and digital rights management; copyright contracts, public policy, and antitrust; and contributory and vicarious liability for copyright infringement.]

>**Hitchcock, Michael & Victor T. King & Michael Parnwell (eds)** – 2008— **Tourism in Southeast Asia: challenges and new directions**, Nias Press. Pb ISBN: 978-87-7694-033-1 [From the catalog – An updated (same eds as 1993 *Tourism in Southeast Asia*) exploration of the state of tourism development and associated issues – Examines many of the challenges facing SEA tourism at a critical stage of change following recent crises and disasters – Adopts a multidisciplinary approach and presents new perspectives, and includes contributions from leading researchers on tourism in SEA -- Includes an in-depth examination of anthropological writing on SEA tourism.]

>**Hjort, Mette & Duncan Petrie (eds)** –2008—**The cinema of small nations**, 256 pp. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Pb ISBN: 978-0-253-22010-3 [From the brochure – The first major analysis of small national cinemas – Compares the cinemas of Singapore, Ireland, Denmark, Iceland, Scotland, Bulgaria, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and New Zealand.]

>**Hunter, Shireen T (ed)** –2008—**Reformist voices of Islam: mediating Islam and modernity**, 328 pp. M.E. Sharpe. Hb ISBN: 978-0-7656-2238-9 [From the website and the catalog --

Introduces the current generation of reformist thinkers and activists, the intellectual traditions they carry on, and the reasons for the failure of reformist movements to sustain broad support in the Islamic world – Richly detailed regionally focused chapters cover Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, the Arab East, the Maghreb, South Asia, Turkey, Europe, and North America – See especially: **a)** Farish Noor, Ch6, “Reformist Muslim thinkers in Malaysia”; and **b)** Martin Van Bruinessen, Ch5, “Liberal and progressive voices in Indonesian Islam”; as well as the other 7 chs.]

>**Kuhn, Philip A** –2008—**Chinese among others: emigration in Modern Times**, 448 pp. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Pb ISBN: 978-0-7425-1070-8 [From the website – Tells the remarkable 5-century story of Chinese emigration as an integral part of China’s modern history beginning from the 16th century, when European colonialists began to collaborate with Chinese emigrants to develop a worldwide trading system – Explores both internal and external migration, complementary parts of a far-reaching process of adaptation that enabled Chinese families to deal with their changing social environments – The various human ecologies in which they lived have helped Chinese settlers face a diversity of challenges and opportunities in the colonial and postcolonial states of Southeast Asia as well as in other parts of the world – A rich source of primary sources allows these protagonists personal voices to express their hopes, sorrows, and worldviews.]

>**Kuroiwa, Ikuo & Toh Mun Heng (eds)** –2008—**Production networks and industrial clusters: integrating economies in Southeast Asia**, 363 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. ISBN: 978-981-230-763-7 [From the website – See especially “Part II: Case Studies”: a) Rajah Rasiah, ch5, ‘Industrial clustering of electronic firms in Indonesia and Malaysia’; and b), Toh Mun Heng & Shandre Thangavelu, ch6, ‘The biomedical science (BMS) industry in Singapore: can it plug into the global value chain?’]

>**Lachenmann, Gudrun & Petra Dannecker** –2008-- **Negotiating development in Muslim societies: gendered spaces and translocal connections**, 246 pp. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Hb ISBN: 0-7391-2619-9 [From www.rowmanlittlefield.com – Addresses a wide range of concerns such as the self and other in cross-cultural encounters, gendered spaces, and ongoing reconstituting of local discourses of Islam – Bring together a rich comparative South-South perspective on trans-local networks of NGOs and international organizations and how traveling ideas have gained a new meaning through local-global interaction – Explores the negotiation processes of global development concepts such as poverty alleviation, human rights and gender equality – Focuses on 3 countries, undergoing different Islamization processes: Malaysia, Senegal and Sudan – See especially: ch3, Anna Spiegel, “Women’s organizations and social transformation in Malaysia: between social work and legal reforms”; and ch7, Anna Spiegel, “Negotiating women’s rights in a trans-local space: women’s organizations and networking in Malaysia” – Other contributors: Salma A Nagee and Nadeen Sieveking.]

>**Lebra, Joyce C** –2008—**The Indian National Army and Japan**, 257 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. ISBN: 978-981-230-806-1 [From the website – Traces the origins of the National Army in the imagination of a young Japanese intelligence officer & the relationship between the Imperial Japanese Army and the Indian National Army as it evolved under leadership of Bengali revolutionary, Sulbhas Chandra Bose – See especially: Ch2, “Malayan jungle meeting”; and Ch3, “Singapore capitulates and the INA blossoms”.]

>Lee, James & Kam-wah Chan (eds) –2007—*The crisis of welfare in East Asia*, 286 pp. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Hb ISBN: 978-0-7391-1178-9 [From the website – Adopts a unique and critical perspective on contemporary social welfare policies in East Asia – Reflects on current welfare theories and challenges the dominant productivist ideology that overemphasizes the influence of work and family – Authors from different social policy domains provide an updated assessment of inadequacies and limitations in current social policies as well as the problematic theories guiding them, demystifying the so-called “East Asian Welfare Model”, and reengage the identification of an appropriate welfare ideology that includes a selective integration of social policy and economic development -- 14 contributors – See especially: a) Beng-huat Chua, “Emerging issues in developmental welfarism in Singapore”; b) James Lee, “Deciphering productivism and developmentalism in East Asian social welfare”; and c) Kam-wah Chan, “Concluding observations: is there a crisis of welfare in East Asia?”]

>Liow, Joseph Chinyong –2006—*Muslim resistance in Southern Thailand and Southern Philippines: religion, ideology, and politics* (Policy Studies, No. 24), viii+74 pp. Washington, D.C.: East-West Center. Pb ISBN: 978-1-932728-47-7 [From the website -- Analyzes the ongoing conflicts of southern Thailand and southern Philippines between indigenous Muslim minorities and their respective central governments -- Investigates/interrogates the ideological context and content of conflicts in southern Thailand and southern Philippines as they pertain to Islam and radicalism to assess the extent to which these conflicts have taken on a greater religious character – Argues that while conflicts in southern Thailand and southern Philippines have taken on religious hues as a consequence of both local and external factors – Both areas share little with broader radical global Islamist and Jihadist ideologies and movements ... their interests are mainly political and local – Also, the two movements are different in several fundamental ways.]

>Merli, Claudia –2008-- *Bodily practices and medical identities in Southern Thailand* (Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology nr 43), xviii+311 pp. Uppsala, Sweden: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, The Royal Society for Humanities and Science. Pb ISBN: 978-91-554-6999-3 [From the back cover – Explores contemporary practices concerning women’s and children’s bodies, with a special focus on postpartum practices, the treatment of the afterbirth and its cosmological dimensions, and male and female circumcision – Crossing boundaries between different cosmologies and medical systems at the borders to Malaysia, the Muslim minority in Southern Thailand continue postpartum practices that have abandoned by Thai Buddhists in the region, making the body a contested site of powers and identities in which agents of the Thai state pressure traditional midwives to limit practice to rituals and massage – As these and other events and trends under medical scrutiny and intervention as well as a modernist reading of Islam, local ethno-physiological conceptions are lost -- Titles of chapters: 1) Introduction; 2) The bio-politics of family planning and demographic statistics; 3) Pregnancy and childbirth; 4) Midwives between tradition and modernity; 5) Traditional versus modern treatment of the afterbirth; 6) Women and physiology; 7) Women by the fire; 8) Social and cosmological dimensions of fatherhood; 9) Public and private circumcisions; 10) Conclusion.]

>Sears, Laurie J –2007-- *Knowing Southeast Asian subjects*, 296 pp. Singapore:NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971693664 [From the website -- These essays ask how the rising preponderance from scholarship from SEA is de-centering Southeast Asian studies in the

USA – Addresses recent transformations within the field and new directions for research, pedagogy, and institutional cooperation – Contributions from history, anthropology, cultural studies, political theory, and libraries pose questions ranging from how a concern with post-colonial and feminist questions of identity may reorient the field to how anthropological work on civil society and Islam in SEA provides an opportunity for comparative political theorists to develop more sophisticated analytic approaches.]

>Sidel, John T –2007-- *The Islamist threat in Southeast Asia: a reassessment* (Policy Studies, No. 37), xi+74 pp. Washington, D.C.: East-West Center Washington & Singapore: ISEAS Publishing. ISBN: 978-981-230-489-6 [From the website, www.eastwestcenter.org – In recent years a steady reportage has spotlighted a dangerous ‘Islamist threat’ – But this study suggests that such an alarmist picture is highly overdrawn, and traces a pattern of decline – This trend the case in Indonesia, Malaysia, southern Thailand and the Philippines – A fuller appreciation of aggression by anti-Islamists and non-Muslims, and of the insecurity, weakness and fractiousness of Islamist forces themselves, helps to explain the nature, extent and limitations of Islamist violence, aggression and assertiveness.]

>Tagliacozzo, Eric –2007—*Secret trades, porous borders: smuggling and states along a Southeast Asia frontier, 1865 -1915*, 438 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971693855 [From the web – This book analyzes the half century, 1865 to 1915, when the British and Dutch delineated colonial spheres in the process of creating new frontiers in Insular Southeast Asia, as well as analyzing activities of opium traders, currency runners and human traffickers, who pierced newly drawn boundaries – Presents a history of the evolution of this 3,000 km frontier and inquires into the smuggling of contraband: who smuggled and why, routes favored, and how effectively the British and Dutch enforced their economic, moral and political will – New insights.]

>Tan, Kenneth Paul (ed) –2008—*Renaissance Singapore: economy, culture and politics*, 256 pp. NUS Press (distributed by U. Hawai’i Press). Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-377-0 [From the website – In this collection public intellectuals and civil society activists discuss Singapore’s public rhetoric about liberalization and its association with the development of a creative economy.]

>Tanaka, N –2007—*The angiosperm flora of Singapore: cannaceae*, 8 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971693701 [Description from the NUS website – Same description as in Chung, R C K & H T W Tan –2006-- *The angiosperm flora of Singapore: erythroxylaceae*, 8 (?) pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971693640 above, except different author and species.]

>Waterson, Roxana (ed) –2007—*Southeast Asian lives: personal narratives and historical experience*, 336 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 9971-69-344-5 (co-edition with Ohio University Press [Narratives illustrate the richness of life histories in revealing what it was like to go through the wrenching social adjustments that accompanied successive political transformations as SEA moved from colonialism thru wartime occupation by the Japanese to the emergence of new nation states – Authors who present these life stories are all anthropologists – And more.]

>Wellford, Andrew C & Kenneth M George (eds) –2005—*Spirited politics: religion and public life in contemporary Southeast Asia*, 210 pp. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, Southeast Asia Program. Pb ISBN: 9780877277378 [From the website (but the “contributors” button is not working) -- An impressive collection of papers, drawing

on 7 anthropologists and 1 historian, and dealing with material from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines – Offers perceptive accounts of the complex intersections of religious, nationalist, and local discourses in a dynamic, changing region – Anthropological investigations of religion and sociality, recent cultural and political transformations in Southeast Asia.]

>Wolters, O W & edited by Craig J. Reynolds –2007—*Early Southeast Asia: selected essays*, pp. ? Ithaca, NY: Cornell Univ., Southeast Asia Program. Pb ISBN: 978-0-87727-743-9 [From the website -- Collection of the classic essays of O W Wolters, reflecting lifelong study of free modern Southeast Asia, literature, trade, government, and vanished cities – Also an intellectual biography by the editor, covering Wolters's professional life in the Malayan Civil Service and, later, as a scholar.]

>Yong, Tan Tai –2008—*Creating "Greter Malaysia": de-colonization and the politics of merger*, pp. 224. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-743-9 [From the website – In depth & detailed analysis of political processes leading to formation of the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 – Argues that the Malaysia that came into being following the amalgamation of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak & Borneo was a creation whose only rationale was that it served a convergence of political and economic expediency for the departing colonial power, the Malayan leadership and the ruling party of self-governing Singapore... i.e., "Greater Malaysia" thus was made an artificial political entity... A concatenation of interests and motives of a number of political actors in London and Southeast Asia from the 1950s to the early 1960s – Contrasts the complicated negotiations and hard bargaining between Singapore and Malaya on critical issues of citizenship, control of finances and development of a common market leading-up to merger issues of citizenship, with the relative ease with which the North Borneo Territories were incorporated into the Federation.]

WEBSITES

>*Far Eastern economic review*. <http://www.feer.com> [See especially, Andrew Martin Fischer, "Why Anwar Matters" March 17, 2008.]

CONFERENCES, PAPERS, MANUSCRIPTS, POSITIONS, etc

1) **The 2009 Association for Asian Studies annual meeting will be held on March 26-29, 2009 in Chicago** – Proposals for panels and individual papers must be submitted electronically and received by August 15, 2008 – Go to www.aasianst.org and gfelker@willamette.edu for further information.

2) **Religion and globalization in Asia** – Call for papers on prospects, patterns, and problems for the coming decade will be the theme for this conference to be held 13-14 March 2009, at the University of San Francisco's Center for the Pacific Rim – Keynotes speakers will be Mark Juergensmeyer, Saskia Sassen, Nayan Chanda, and ten other presenters, who will explore the dynamics of globalizing forces on the established and emerging religions of South and East Asia – One of the major concerns will be to understand "the dialectical tension of co-dependence and co-determinism between religion and globalization" – How do communication technologies, capital flows, security issues, trans-nationalism, immigration and migration, and identity politics contribute to conditions in which religious belief and practice prosper -- To give a paper, submit a 200 word abstract and brief CV to the address listed at: <http://www.pacificrim.usfca.edu/religionandglobalization.html>, no later than 30 August 2008. 2) **EWIC**, an interdisciplinary

encyclopedia project focused on women and Islamic cultures, is inviting scholars, including graduate students, to be possible contributors – Visit: www.sjoseph.ucdavis.edu/ewic & follow the link to the contributor template.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

(Abstracted by rp from reports by Margaret John, Amnesty International Canada, Coordinator for Malaysia & Singapore, e-mail: malaysiasingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca) 1) **21 May 2008** -- Singapore – Dr Chee Soon Juan, Secretary-General of the Singapore Democratic Party and an internationally respected human rights defender, and his colleague Yap Keng Ho, were found guilty 21 May of speaking in public without a permit (They sold their party newspaper on the streets during the 2006 election campaign) ... a 2nd of 8 such charges under the Public Entertainments and Meetings Act – Sentencing was set for 30 May. 2) **22 May 2008** -- Singapore – Singapore authorities attempted to stop a private screening of a critical film on Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew on 17 May 2008, alleging that the screening violated the Films Act according to news reports – Section 21(1)(b) of the Films Act forbids the screening of a film that has not been vetted by the censors, punishing violators with a maximum fine of S\$40,000 (about US\$29,428) or a jail term of up to six months, or both (Anyone with a computer that can access the web can view the film at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17qbGlwyGj0>). The film documents former premier Lee's rise to power through a host of restrictive measures on civil liberties, criticizes the economic and political governance of the ruling party and pays tribute to the efforts activists and citizens who persist in claiming and exercising their democratic rights. 3) **10 July 2008** -- Main international news agencies carry articles on the International Bar Association (IBA) report, which inevitably filters even into Singapore – Published 9 July 2008, the new report hails the states "impressive" economic development but accuses it of "isolationist policies and attitudes... no longer tenable" in the 21st century" – Major allegations are that Singapore goes beyond recognized constraints on freedom of expression and too often uses criminal defamation as a tool to silence political and media critics: muzzling domestic and international media, curbing freedom of assembly and restricting the independence of the Singapore Law Society to comment on legislation, ... in a 72 page report -- The report was especially concerned about the objectivity and subjective independence and impartiality of Singapore judges.

PROSPECTUS

Berita is a quarterly (beginning with volume 27) bulletin board, forum and publication for all of the scholarly disciplines concerned with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies. It is published and distributed mid-month in February, May, August and November.

The editor welcomes news of forthcoming or very recent scholarly research, publications and professional positions.

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