

Over the past decades China has managed to develop a tremendous number of interactions and dealings with the leaders, businesses and peoples in Southeast Asia, but these interactions are more often than not of a transactional nature.

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PAK SUM LOW (ED.), *Sustainable Development: Asia-Pacific Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. 449 pages, £120.00. ISBN 978-0-5218-9717-4 (hb)

This is a whale of a book in two senses: it is big, and it has had a long gestation. First, the gestation: the seeds were sown in March 2005 during the Eminent Scientists Symposium on “Global Change and Sustainable Development” held in Seoul. It was agreed at the Symposium that the papers presented would be published, but it has taken 17 years to get to that point. I am all in favour of slow scholarship, but that is tardy even by academic standards, a fact that the editor acknowledges in a profuse apology. Of the original papers, 17 have been updated and are present in this volume; there are also 15 new chapters. These contributions fall into two equal sections, the first on theories and practices of sustainable development (16 chapters), and the second on the challenges and opportunities of/for sustainable development (another 16 chapters). Now to the size: there are 70 authors, 32 chapters and a text that runs to almost 450 pages.

The book is dedicated to a doyen of sustainable development and environmental diplomacy: Dr Mostafa Kamal Tolba. Dr Tolba, in fact, chaired the 2005 Symposium and passed away in March 2016. There is a foreword from Dr Tolba which he wrote for an earlier manuscript that never saw the light of day, but which the editor feels “remains valid”. Tolba writes that “the book is a solid piece of work that should constitute a basic reference source in the library of any person concerned with the issues of sustainable development” (page xxxiv). That about sums it up – people will turn to the volume when they are scouting out a starting point for a myriad of sustainable development debates and issues: poverty, land degradation, food security, green development, Confucianism and the environment, biomass energy, DRR, climate change and international law, biodiversity, land use change, the “haze”.... The entries for each are shortish (around 12 pages) and written in an approachable manner, reflecting the fact that the book’s readership will be broad. In fact, that is exactly how I used the book recently in writing a chapter on “present and future environments of South-east Asia” for another edited volume: as a basic source.

While *Sustainable Development: Asia-Pacific Perspectives* is a valuable reference book, it is not a textbook. The selection of topics is sometimes quite esoteric, such as a contribution on a “placemaking framework for the social sustainability of master-planned communities” in Australia. But others truly are wide-ranging, such as “causes of land-use change and bio-diversity loss in Monsoon Asia”. There is also no introductory chapter by the editor to set out the aims and contextualise the book; the first chapter is by Amartya Sen on Asian identities.

Moreover, the book does, I think, show its age, even though it was published in 2022. Only one chapter mentions the Anthropocene, and then just in passing. The 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan are mentioned in a footnote as if the events were yesterday. There is nothing much on planetary health and planetary boundaries, key areas of current debate. These are things that I might have expected to be covered more fully in a book like this, and I suspect that they are absent mainly because they have entered mainstream debate comparatively recently.

Those gaps aside, there is much to recommend this book. A significant plus is that the majority of the authors of this book on sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific are either based at institutions and agencies in the Asia-Pacific and/or are from the Asia-Pacific themselves. I also think that while there may be “gaps”, the editor has done a fine job – in what must have been a demanding task – in enticing this array of experts to contribute to such an ambitious project.

Jonathan Rigg

CHRIS CHAPLIN, *Salafism and the State: Islamic Activism and National Identity in Contemporary Indonesia*. (NIAS Monograph 155). Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2021. 240 pages, 7 illustrations, 1 map, £22.50. ISBN 978-8-7769-4305-9 (pb)

Dozens of books on Salafism have filled the scholarly literature on political Islam since the 9/11 terrorist attack that shocked the entire international community and impacted security worldwide. This tragic event incited the global war on terror and its consequent massive responses. Researchers around the world responded to the situation by paying greater attention to Islamic radicalism and terrorism, including to the doctrine known as Salafism, considered directly related to the attack. They sought to better understand Salafism by tracing its historical origins, genealogy, ideology, actors, network, mobilisation and the resulting political dynamics at the national and global levels. Their focus was not only the Middle East, but also other parts of the world, including Southeast Asia. Particular attention was given to Indonesia, as since the early