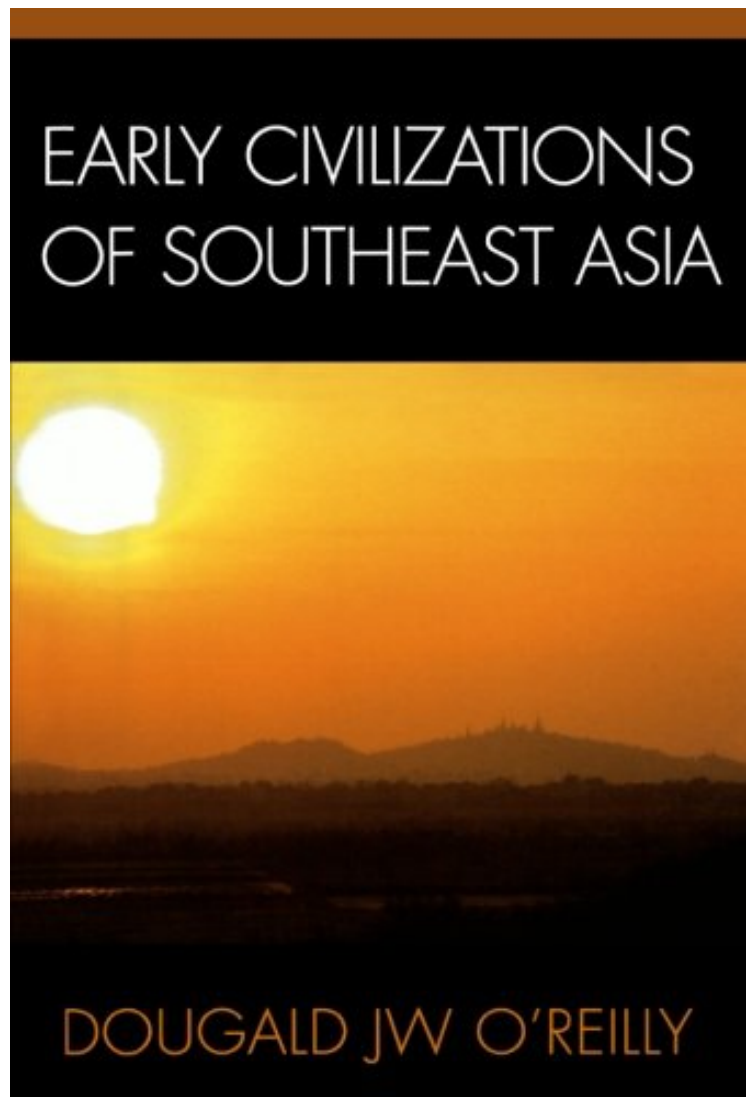


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Early Civilizations of Southeast Asia (Archaeology of Southeast Asia)

Dougald J.W. O'Reilly
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#763193 in Books 2006-12-21 2006-12-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.96 x .67 x 5.851, .88 #File Name: 0759102791224 pages | File size: 58.Mb

Dougald J.W. O'Reilly : Early Civilizations of Southeast Asia (Archaeology of Southeast Asia) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Early Civilizations of Southeast Asia (Archaeology of Southeast Asia):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A godsend for scholars and enthusiasts of early Southeast Asian History By the white tara The finest book on mainland Southeast Asia first early kingdoms and civilizations. This up-to-date book is essential for scholars and those who love seeing unknown and little known ancient history come alive

from archeological finds, early inscriptions and the legacies of early kingdom and religious chronicles. I am so happy and proud to have it on my bookshelf and refer to it often! Dr. Dougald O'Reilly is a masterful writer, easy to read yet abundant in information about ancient sites, history and cultural finds. This kind of book is only written by an expert in their field, evidencing such a wide range of knowledge of the different countries. Yet O'Reilly is still young in his career! I have read books that spend chapters and chapters covering what he can accomplish in a page and a half of concise and graceful prose. This book has a genius of organization at its core, in a field where disorganization and lack of knowledge has reigned for too long. He tackles the Burmese, Thai, Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese ancient scene with aplomb! Well done, Dr. O'Reilly! More, more!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Extremely valuable. By Alexandra M. Lucas This is a very informative book. I found it very helpful when writing uni essays for SE Asian archaeology, it is concise, referenced throughout (Thank you for this- another helpful aspect) and Dougald has utilized very good sources when writing it. Another thing I like about this book is the language- straight forward and easy to understand. Too often do I feel as though academics sit there right clicking words in Microsoft Word to find synonyms to embellish their texts- outcome: what are they trying to say?! I could not be more grateful for this- put it in the middle of your shelf and buy Charles Higham to sit next to it. I am still using it (AGAIN- 3 years later), to assist me in writing an essay on Indian modernism. Absolutely no doubts about this book.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A good overview of mainland history. By Anton Zakharov The monograph by Dougald O'Reilly seems to be a nice contribution to historiography of Early Southeast Asia. It gives a picture of early historical developments of the region. It includes a reconsideration of state formation theories and re-examines different theories of 'Indianization' of Southeast Asia. O'Reilly holds that the well-known Southeast Asian polities of the first millennium C.E. but Chienla were chiefdoms. He believes they were 'exclusionary' or 'individualizing' that means monopolizing of sources of power by an individual. The 'Indianization' of Southeast Asia passed through two main stages. During the first one which dates from the fourth century B.C.E. to the second century C.E., foreign artifacts such as glass and stone beads and Indian-style ceramics appeared in Southeast Asia. They serve as the tokens of symbolic power and possibility to obtain them through long-distance exchange. During the second period which covers the second - the fourth centuries C.E. the number of objects increased considerably but their diversity decreased. The adoption of Indian beliefs, art styles, writing, political and social concepts also took place during this epoch. O'Reilly supposes that 'the process of "globalization" began in the early centuries of the first millennium C.E. At this juncture of civilizations from North Asia, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and the Mediterranean Basin became involved in a vast trade and exchange network' (p. 199). I think, by the way, that the label of the monograph is misleading because it concerns the mainland Southeast Asia only. If you want to know how early Indonesian polities evolved this book gives you no data except some remarks on Srivijaya (pp. 59-61). Unfortunately, they also partially misleading. For example, O'Reilly writes that 'in 683 C.E. the king [of Srivijaya] launched a military expedition upriver from Palembang' (p. 60). The available inscriptions, however, tell another story: In 682 the king undertook a campaign with twenty thousands men but we do not know where whereas the Kota Kapur inscription dated from 686 C.E. mentions an expedition against the land of Java but we do not know what land is meant there and how many people made up an army. What occurred in 683 C.E. is unknown. I highly recommend the monograph by O'Reilly to anyone who studies the history of Southeast Asia. It will be very useful for investigation of political developments of the mainland.

Early Civilizations of Southeast Asia presents a fascinating synthesis of research on the prehistoric societies of mainland Southeast Asia. Drawing on archaeological and historical research, both old and new, Dougald O'Reilly provides a general picture of the events that shaped the region in ancient times, covering the rise of the Pyu civilization in Myanmar, the Mon and Dvaravati kingdoms of Thailand, the early polities of peninsular Malaysia, the Khmer kingdoms of Cambodia, and the rise of Champa in Vietnam. This is a book that will interest both scholars and students of archaeology, anthropology, history, and Asian studies.

Dougald O'Reilly's synthesis of mainland Southeast Asia in the first millennium C.E. makes a genuine contribution to research on ancient complex societies. It should stimulate more archaeological interest in the region, both as a source for cross-cultural comparison and as its own field of study. (Miriam Stark, University of Hawaii-Manoa) As one who taught South East Asian archaeology for nearly thirty years, I can say that a book such as this would have been a most useful text and teaching aid. I am impressed by the wide-ranging and careful scholarship shown by Dr. O'Reilly and his evaluation of often difficult and sometimes contradictory evidence from historical sources, ethnology, inscriptions and field archaeology. (Ian Glover, Institute of Archaeology, University College London) The work will have wide appeal...the book offers a thorough compilation of recent research in Southeast Asian archaeology. Summing Up: Recommended. (CHOICE, January 2008) Early Civilizations of Southeast Asia highlights research on the pre- and protohistoric societies of Southeast Asia, with a focus on Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam. The civilizations of Southeast Asia have a long and storied history, resulting in the region's complexity in ethnic and linguistic groups. O'Reilly highlights the archaeology and historical research undertaken in the region, both classic and

contemporary, to provide a general picture of the events that shaped early Mainland Southeast Asia. (John Miksic, Asia Research Institute, University of Singapore) About the Author Dougald JW O'Reilly is director and founder of HeritageWatch, a non-profit organization dedicated to heritage preservation, and a lecturer at the University of Sydney, Australia.