

1968

## The Southeast Asian World

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*U.S. Navy*

Keith Buchanan

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after World War II are recapitulated as case studies to prove his thesis. He is wary of Western penchant for a détente and believes that Soviet goals and tactics have not changed. The book is primarily an emotional appeal to the West to continue determined resistance to the Soviet Union; it lacks sophisticated analysis, and its documentation of research material is haphazard. It would seem reasonable that more alternatives in East-West relationships are possible than the simple black or white dichotomy expounded here.

R.O. BEAULIEU  
Commander, U.S. Navy

Buchanan, Keith, *The Southeast Asian World*. London: Bell, 1967. 176 p.

A worthwhile book about Southeast Asian history, sociology, economics, and geography that challenges traditional concepts and still makes sense is unusual. Geography Professor at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, Keith Buchanan has written an essay that does just that: it makes sense. Beginning with the economic and political significance of Southeast Asia— an area half the size of the United States, with an estimated population in the year 2000 of one twelfth that of the world or 175 percent of the combined estimate for the United States and Canada— he then identifies three crucial factors influencing the present events of the region. These factors come into conflict, says Buchanan, when the Communist development model (North Vietnam, China, North Korea), offering an alternative to the apparent failures of “Western-style free enterprise,” meets an expanding American military perimeter. He asserts that Western man’s adverse influence on the region for the last 350 years has far exceeded that in the other two tropical regions of Africa and Latin America because of Southeast Asia’s accessibility to the sea. The massive colonial effort greatly disturbed the

socio-economic systems of the indigenous cultures. His thesis is that historical factors created the poverty of Southeast Asia, and, therefore, “man who created the conditions which led to poverty can equally certainly initiate the development which will lead out of poverty.” After drawing a concise historical-geopolitical analysis, the Professor candidly observes that Southeast Asia will most probably select a development model presently unacceptable to the United States and the Soviet Union. He suggests that a liberal socialism will emerge as the guiding formula, as other analysts have prophesied for Latin America. Whether one accepts the thesis of the author or not, the well-illustrated and documented historical background and country-by-country, social-political analysis are worth an evening’s reading. Buchanan concludes by making the point that the inhabitants of Southeast Asia are striving to be subjects, rather than objects, in international diplomacy.

I.E.M. DONOVAN  
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Coleman, John R., ed. *The Changing American Economy*. New York: Basic Books, 1967. 275 p.

*The Changing American Economy* encompasses the individual institutions, the marketplaces, the role of fiscal and monetary policies in the functioning of a stable, growing economic system, and the international impact of the outward thrust of the powerful U.S. economy. The views of 20 well-qualified professional economists have been compiled by John R. Coleman, the editor, to tell the story. The changes that have occurred in the economy during the century are related in terms of the decisions, progress, and the problems that have characterized them. They have been widespread some profound and spectacular, and others moderate. While the book is devoted to a review of these