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## Eight Nation Makers

W. F. Long Jr.  
*U.S. Army*

Willard A. Hanna

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Although most of the ideas articulated by Senator Fulbright are not new, they obtain greater meaning and significance because they are said by the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Senator makes a valiant attack on cherished American myths about international relations, but it is questionable if he has moved the American people closer to reality. On balance, however, this treatise ought to be rated as one of the most important statements on the role of the United States in world affairs during the postwar period.

D. L. LARSON  
Consultant, International Relations

Hanna, Willard A. *Eight Nation Makers*. New York: St Martin's, 1964. 307 p.

Drawing upon extensive research and personal acquaintance, the author has produced a fascinating and valuable work built around the charismatic leaders of eight Southeast Asian countries. He concludes his introduction by stating that he is 'impelled by the notion that politics is people, the politics of underdeveloped areas is people of overdeveloped politics, and Southeast Asian politicians, as people, are extraspecial specimens.' He then proceeds to prove this by producing a gallery of portraits which includes Sukarno of Indonesia, Tengku Abdul Rahman of Malaysia, Macapagal of the Philippines, Ngo Dinh Diem of RVN, Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia, 'Captain' Kong Le and the Laotian princes, General Ne Win of Burma, and King Bhumibol of Thailand. In company, this grouping serves to emphasize the regional diversities in the leadership, the development of the countries, and the external and internal problems and conflicts. Further, under the shadow of Red China, there is the implicit message that the tactical use of chaos and contradiction may be tools of modern revolution which are not exclusively for communist use. Whether the resulting conditions favor the international political nuisance value of these emerging countries, or merely prepare the way for a restoration of order Marxist-style is a legitimate concern for the military reader. Reading this book is an entertaining but disquieting experience. It is not a sure means of understanding Southeast Asian politics in eight easy lessons. It does provide a point for departure or opportunity to review the personalities and incidents which have made post-World War II Southeast Asia whatever it is. Since the United States has become increasingly enmeshed in this area, it seems wise to attempt to understand something of the political jungle which Mr. Hanna alludes to and which his work helps to depict.

W. F. LONG, JR.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army