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Thailand: An Introduction to Modern Siam

Noel F. Busch

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BOOKS

Busch, Noel F. *Thailand; An Introduction to Modern Siam.*

Princeton, N. J., Van Nostrand, 1959. 166 p.

Mr. Busch has very ably portrayed a picture of Thailand, past and present, leaving the reader with a distinct impression that he has gained an important insight into the makeup of modern Thailand. His approach has been to discuss those aspects of the country's geography, history, government, religion, arts and pastimes which he deems essential to a broad understanding of the way of life of the people that make up this free Southeast Asian kingdom. He has done this in colorful and informal fashion by intermixing personal impressions gained during his four-year stay in the country together with information gathered from a rather detailed research on his part of the various authoritative documents available on Thailand. The author points out vividly the impact that religion and freedom from foreign domination (except for the brief Japanese occupation in World War II) have had on the development of the culture and way of life of modern Thais. He pictures them as a philosophical, trusting, extremely polite and happily contented people, yet a race which over the centuries has guarded jealously its independence, fighting bravely to preserve it whenever it was threatened by outside forces. This has caused them to line up solidly with the free world in the current struggle against Communist domination. The purpose of Mr. Busch's undertaking is simply to provide in a small, informal and unpretentious book general information about Thailand for the casual reader. This work is the first volume in a new series. "The Asia Library," published in cooperation with the Asian Society, New York.

Committee for Economic Development. *The European Common Market and Its Meaning to the United States.* New York, McGraw-Hill, 1959. 152 p.

The European Common Market and the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) are indicative of