

## **Book Review: Pacific Affairs**

### **INDIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA, 1947-1960.**

**By Ton That Thien.**

**Geneva: Librairie Droz. 1963. 384 pp. \$11.00.**

INDIAN POLICY IN South East Asia is a subject of great interest in many of the leading capitals of the world. If it were possible, it would be interesting to compare the evaluation of this book in New Delhi, Moscow, Peking, and Washington. The author has divided his study into three parts: the first deals with the conceptual background where he analyzes India's approach to world problems and then to Asia and South East Asia; next he considers New Delhi's policy toward the individual states of South East Asia (defined as the region extending from Burma to the Philippines and Indonesia); and finally, he discusses India's limitations and opportunities with reference to the Communist states and the West in the area, concluding with a chapter significantly called "Indian Policy in South East Asia: Balance of Power." The book is well documented and the bibliography commendable, while twenty-eight tables add to the impressiveness of the work.

Although the author's approach to his study is primarily historical his frame of reference permits policy analysis. His periodization, 1947 (the independence of India) to 1960 (a turning point in Sino-Indian relations), is valid. In terms of policy analysis the author tends to be cautious. He has clearly read the writings of the leading men in his field of interest but he is apt to quote them rather than evaluate them. The concluding chapter, for instance, has a larger number of quotations. As a result of his careful research and excellent plan of study, this reviewer would have preferred more of the author's own evaluation. This observation, however, does not detract from the basic value of the book as a commendable study of India's policy toward South East during an important period. It would be helpful if comparable works could appear on the policy of several other powers toward the area.

University of Michigan

RUSSELL H. FIFIELD