



Night Market: Sexual Cultures and the Thai Economic Miracle

By Ryan Bishop, Lillian S. Robinson

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In Thailand, a \$4 billion per year tourist industry is the linchpin of the modernization process called the "Thai Economic Miracle". And what is Thailand's main attraction? Sex for hire. Year after year young women are lured to Bangkok to staff the teeming brothels, massage parlors, and sex bars that cater to male tourists from the United States, Western Europe, Japan, Australia, the Gulf States, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Developed from Lillian S. Robinson's article in *The Nation*, **Night Market** traces the historical, cultural, material, and textual traditions that have combined in unique ways to establish sex tourism as an integral part of the developing Thai economy. It explores international sex tourism from the perspectives of economic-development planning, forced labor market choices, international sexual alienation, and textual traditions that have constructed sexual "Other" cultures in Western imagination.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In their examination of Thailand's sex industry, anthropologist Bishop and Robinson, a feminist scholar, rely overwhelmingly on reviewing the writings of others, with the sole exception of the chapter that provides a tour of selected areas of Bangkok where the sex industry operates. Their basic conclusion is that resolving the massive poverty in Thailand's northeast will eventually cut off the supply of workers to Bangkok's sex industry. The authors offer no discussion of the corruption or politics that allow prostitution to flourish and limit their focus to Westerners, failing to treat the patronage of prostitutes by Thai men or those aspects of Thai culture that have allowed the industry to develop. The final chapter, on sexual theory, derives solely from Western sources and hardly relates to the book itself. Recommended only for larger public libraries. Donald Clay Johnson, Univ. of Minnesota Lib., Minneapolis

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Review

..."extremely useful studies in constructing relationships between modernization strategies and sexualities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. ...an excellent analysis of the nexus between Thai economic development, the role of the tourist industry and the concomitant rise of prostitution, particularly among rural women."

-"Transformations

"This book's value lies in its resourceful synthesis of the ways that development, modernization and natural resources have combined to reinforce and legitimize cultures that disavow what they themselves produce."

- "The Women's Review of Books

"A remarkable collaboration by a pioneer in feminist studies and an anthropologist with deep experience in Thailand that takes the license of cultural studies without its moralisms to produce a cross-culturally sensitive treatment of a subject that otherwise too often takes its place in a latter-day Western cabinet of curiosities."

-George Marcus

"Recommended ... for larger public libraries."

- "Library Journal, February 1, 1998

"Bishop, a Caucasian anthropologist, ...and Robinson, a feminist writer, come at their complex subject from an invigorating variety of angles-historical, economic, psychosexual. They energetically and diligently explore the U.S.'s role in transforming Thailand into an internationally infamous "sexual Disneyland" in the 1970s."

- "Publishers Weekly

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louis McCarthy:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book once they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will need this Night Market: Sexual Cultures and the Thai Economic Miracle.

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Edgar Villanueva:

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