Record Nr.	UNINA9910170982203321
Titolo	Social Inequality in Vietnam and the Challenges to Reform / / Edited by Philip Taylor [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore : , : Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, , 2004
ISBN	981-230-595-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 392 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Vietnam update series
Disciplina	305/.09597
Soggetti	Equality - Vietnam Social problems - Vietnam
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 24 Nov 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

Social inequalities have grown during Vietnam's transition to a marketbased economy, even as average incomes have increased and the number of people living in poverty has lessened. Do widening social rifts - between rich and poor, urban and rural communities and along regional, gender and ethnic lines - have the potential to undermine Vietnam's liberal reforms and its integration with its region? How has Based on research the socialist state responded to these challenges? and analysis of recent conditions, Social Inequality in Vietnam and the Challenges to Reform offers detailed descriptions of disparities in income, spatial access, gender, ethnicity and status, addressing their causes and consequences. The eleven chapters in this book illustrate the changing ways in which people have accumulated wealth, social and cultural capital in Vietnam's move from a socialist to a market-oriented society. They assemble data from the Northern Uplands to the Mekong delta to explore geographic variability in patterns of social differentiation. Offering critical insights into state policy, the chapters assess the adequacy of government responses and outline local responses and informal solutions to social disadvantage. This book features a diverse mix of theoretical and methodological approaches and bridges some of the disciplinary and institutional divides that have impeded understanding of inequality in Vietnam. The wide range of themes it covers will make it a sought-after resource for those interested in contemporary Vietnam and the effects of liberal reforms, globalization and post-socialist development strategies.