

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910798931303321
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Titolo	State Institutions, civic associations, and identity demands : regional movements in greater Southeast Asia // edited by Amy H. Liu and Joel Sawat Selway
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ann Arbor, Michigan : , : University of Michigan Press, , 2024 ©2024
ISBN	9780472903412 0472903411
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 volume : illustrations)
Collana	Emerging Democracies
Classificazione	POL000000POL009000POL054000
Soggetti	Minorities - Political activity - Southeast Asia Democracy - Southeast Asia Southeast Asia History Autonomy and independence movements Southeast Asia Politics and government 1945-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from eBook information screen..
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 269-296) and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

While the media tends to pay the most attention to violent secessionist movements or peaceful independence movements, it is just as important to understand why there are regions where political movements for autonomy fail to develop. In neglecting regions without political movements or full-blown independence demands, theories may be partial at best and incorrect at worst. *State Institutions, Civic Associations, and Identity Demands* examines over a dozen regions, comparing and contrasting successful cases to abandoned, unsuccessful, or dormant cases. The cases range from successful secession (East Timor, Singapore) and ongoing secessionist movements (Southern Philippines), to internally divided regional movements (Kachin State), low-level regionalist stirrings (Lanna, Taiwan), and local but not regional mobilization of identity (Bali, Minahasan), all the way to failed movements (Bataks, South Maluku) and regions that remain politically inert (East and North Malaysia, Northeast Thailand). While each chapter is written by a country expert, the contributions rely on a range of methods, from comparative historical analysis, to ethnography, field interviews, and data from public opinion surveys. Together, they contribute important new knowledge on little-known cases that nevertheless illuminate the history of regions and ethnic groups in Southeast Asia. Although focused on Southeast Asia, the book identifies two factors that can explain why movements emerge and successfully develop and concludes with a chapter by Henry Hale that illustrates how this can be applied globally.
