

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996580163003316
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Titolo	Chiang Mai Between Empire and Modern Thailand : A City in the Colonial Margins
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : Amsterdam University Press, , 2023 ©2023
ISBN	9789048554782
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (289 pages)
Collana	Asian Cities Series.
Disciplina	307.7609593
Soggetti	HISTORY / Asia / General Thailand
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	Urban histories tend to be dominated by large, global cities. But what does the history of the modern, colonial era look like from the perspective of smaller cities? By shifting the focus from the metropolis to the secondary city of Chiang Mai, this study provides an alternative narrative of the formation of the modern Thai state that highlights the overlap between European, American, and Siamese interests. Through a detailed analysis of Chiang Mai's urban space, the power dynamics that shaped the city come into focus as an urban-scale manifestation of colonial forces-albeit an incomplete one that allowed sacred space to become a source of conflict that was only resolved in the years before WWII. Today, as the city confronts the challenge of overdevelopment, the legacy of the colonial era, and the opportunity of heritage preservation, this deep, multi-layered history of the power of (and over) urban space is vital.