

Download A Plastic Nation The Curse Of Thainess In Thai Burmese Relations

A Plastic Nation examines the immense role of Thai nationhood in domestic and international politics. Although in fact ill-defined, Thainess, or khwampenthai, has been consistently used by Thai leaders to legitimize their power and to defend their economic interests. A Plastic Nation: The Curse of Thainess in Thai-Burmese Relations (review) N. Ganesan Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International and Strategic Affairs, A Plastic Nation examines the role of Thai nationhood in domestic and international politics. Although in fact ill-defined, Thainess, or khwampenthai, has been consistently used by Thai leaders to legitimize their power and defend their economic interests. Not only has the assertion of Thainess been deeply rooted in the private interests of ... The next three chapters apply the twin concepts of khwampenthai and tam kon farang to three case studies — Thai policy towards ethnic insurgencies along the Thai-Myanmar border, the narcotics trade and the admission [End Page 512] of Myanmar into ASEAN in 1997. The conclusion then reiterates the importance of the negative other in elite justification of policies delivered as being in the national interest and its reflection in turn of a certain hollowness to Thai nationalism.