This book is the result of a four year research project focusing on UNESCO World Heritage sites located in South-east Asia, though not all chapters are a direct result of this venture. The site analyses found within the edited work span seven different national contexts and include both natural and cultural sites. In total, the chapters cover nine cultural sites, nine natural sites and one tentative cultural site. While the work does provide a broad ranging collection of analyses, the general theme driving most of the articles relates to management issues. However, these management issues are extremely varied in nature, ranging from problems of interpretation for both local and international audiences and the dialogue surrounding identity at the cultural sites to poaching and unsustainable tourism development at the natural ones. There is also a substantial focus on top-down versus bottom-up management approaches in many of the articles, emphasizing the importance of inclusion of the local stakeholders in the World Heritage planning and management process.

It should be noted that this book is predominantly qualitative in terms of research methodology, focusing predominantly on supply-side, policy analyses. While this is novel for the region, it is the dominant methodology and focus when discussing World Heritage sites. It would have benefited from the inclusion of more mixed methods and quantitative studies. Additionally, while the number of actual sites discussed is balanced, there is a dominance of cultural site chapters, totaling 10, when compared with four chapters focusing on natural heritage. This is particularly noticeable in the inclusion of two chapters covering the site of Luang Prabang in Laos and another two focusing on the Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca multi-city site. Meanwhile, of the four chapters focusing on natural heritage, one work discusses two World Heritage sites in the Philippines, another analyzes two located in Malaysia, and one covers all four natural sites found in Indonesia. However, these problems are minor and do not detract from the book as a whole.
This edited work presents a very broad analysis of different factors affecting World Heritage sites located in South-east Asia. It, therefore, adds to the growing body of literature dealing with this region, emphasizing the managerial aspects and difficulties at World Heritage sites. This is particularly useful for practitioners and scholars who focus on this region as it includes both natural and cultural sites. This allows for a broad overview of the current managerial situation in Southeast Asia as a whole in comparison to previous works which present case by case analyses. Furthermore, this book would prove particularly relevant for those who study heritage management issues in culturally varied locations as the sites discussed all deal with similar issues but the management exhibits various responses dependent on the established managerial structure. Overall, while the book is quite comprehensive in terms of coverage of the Southeast Asian region, it would best interest World Heritage academics whose focus is on planning and management of sites as opposed to those who deal with demand-side tourism research.

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