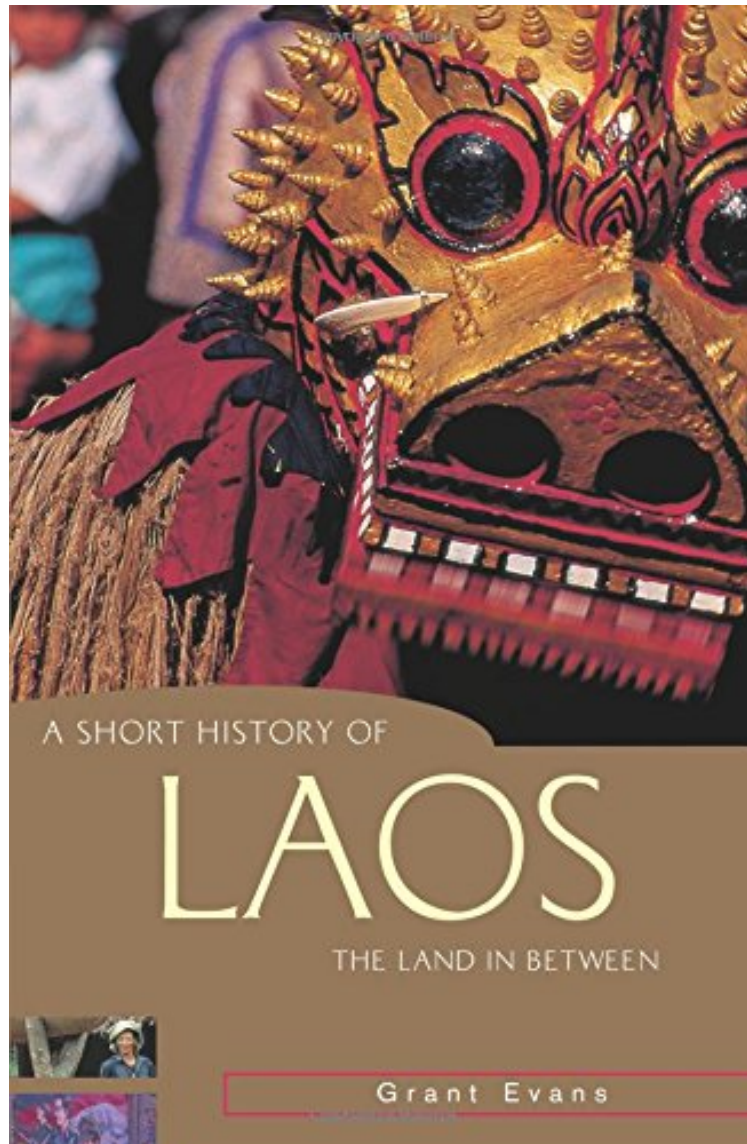


[Download] A Short History of Laos: The Land in Between (A Short History of Asia series)

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Grant Evans

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Grant Evans : A Short History of Laos: The Land in Between (A Short History of Asia series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Short History of Laos: The Land in Between (A Short History of Asia series):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The sad part is Laos did not want anything to do ...By Wiley Umstead This book can not be sold to anyone with a US address. I'm not sure why it is restricted. It does talk about

the fact that US, Russia and China all had military bases in Laos in direct violation of the UN and Geneva. The sad part is Laos did not want anything to do with the Vietnam war, being mostly Buddhist and peaceful. They were forced into the war by Vietnam, China, Russia and the US. More bombs were dropped in Laos than have ever been dropped anywhere. Today these bombs are killing and wounding a 1000 Laos people a year. The book jumps around in time too much to be easy reading. Constantly going forwards 20 to 50 years and then jumping back. The beginning of the book covers early Laos history, middle part the French colonization, remainder the politics from French colonial period through the Vietnam war till about 10 years ago.

38 of 38 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive, insightful, culturally-sensitive

By A Customer

For a newcomer to Laos, Dr. Evans's volume would seem an excellent introduction to its history, politics and culture. For someone like myself, who had his own intense introduction to Laos in the late 60s and looks forward to a return, the book is an insightful refresher and update. It has helped me put my own experience in context and rethink the Laos I once thought I knew. This short history is thoughtful, well-written, and largely devoid of moral judgments.

The subtitle "The Land in Between" sums up an unfortunate reality -- for much of its history Laos has been caught between more powerful neighbors and sometimes their even more powerful patrons. But Evans does not stop with such a facile explanation of the Laos that has emerged. I particularly appreciate his continuing emphasis on the deep and enduring cultural roots of the peoples who inhabit Laos -- and the interplay among them.

With so many Western writers and readers still caught up in the battles that we fought in Laos in the 60s and 70s, Evans's book is a refreshing reminder that Laos merits attention -- indeed fascination -- in its own right.

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Useful Background for Laos

By Curtis

As someone who is contemplating a work assignment in Laos, this book provides needed background on the cultural and political environment likely to be encountered. In addition to the coverage of people and events, I would have appreciated more elaboration on the typical lifestyles of lowland and upland people of Laos and how that has evolved recently. This was an interesting read, but it felt a bit disjointed at times and the writing does not measure up to the skill of better-known modern historians such as David McCollough and Walter Isaacson.

This comprehensive and vivid history of Laos is an ideal introduction for tourists, business travelers, and students. Informative and portable, it chronicles the history of Laos from ancient times, when the dynastic states of the region waxed and waned, to the turmoil of the Vietnam War and independence from France. This guide investigates these key events under a new light and presents serious challenges to the conventional views about Laos's intriguing history.

"I cannot welcome this series warmly enough. It is sure to be a winner and much needed." -- Bill Bryson, author of *In a Sunburned Country* and *A Walk in the Woods*

About the Author

Grant Evans is an anthropologist and professor at the University of Hong Kong. He is the author of *Laos: Culture and Society* and *The Politics of Ritual and Remembrance: Laos Since 1975*. He lives in Hong Kong.

Milton Osborne, PhD, is the author of *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History* and *The Mekong: Turbulent Past, Uncertain Future*.