

Economic Policies and Social Welfare in the 21st Century: Challenges and Responses for China and Thailand

Peter Wilson



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In the last three decades, China and Thailand have undergone rapid economic growth and social change. Using theory, institutional analysis, and case studies, *Economic Policies and Social Welfare in the 21st Century explores the challenges faced by the two countries during this period, such as how to compete in a world of volatile exchange rates and capital flows, how to open up the banking and communications sectors, environmental issues, and how to deal with social problems, such as health care and child rearing. Their responses through social and economic policies are then examined, including the transfer of technology, and fiscal and public policies.*

Social science students, teachers, and researchers, in both the government and private sectors, will find this book particularly relevant for understanding the process of growth and development in two of the most successful developing countries in the Asian region.

Key Features

(1)Asian perspective. Provides an in-depth look at two of the most dynamic Asian countries from an Asian perspective based on the authors' unique experience of living in Asia and researching Asian issues in an Asian context.

(2)Topical. Thailand is a giant economy in Southeast Asia, and a success story as far as economic growth and development is concerned, while China has already become the workshop of the world in low-cost manufacturing and is widely expected to continue along the path of rapid growth and development.
(3)Firm theoretical grounding. Each chapter is rooted in a sound methodological framework, reflecting the authors' particular areas of expertise and their extensive use of relevant empirical evidence.

(4)**Multi-disciplinary.** Insights are drawn from the whole spectrum of the social sciences to provide a broader historical and institutional approach to social policy.

(5)Supporting country case studies. The analysis is country-focused and incorporates case-study material from national and international sources to support the analysis and policy recommendations.
(6)Policy-oriented. Economic policies are important for the overall welfare of a population and are reassessed here in the context of the challenges facing China and Thailand as they undergo growth and development in a rapidly globalizing world.

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