

Worshipping the great moderniser - King Chulalongkorn, patron saint of the Thai middle class

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Review of Worshipping the Great Moderniser

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Review of Worshipping the Great Moderniser

Singapore : National University of Singapore Press , 2009.

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It provides not only details about the different rituals and paraphernalia statues, posters, amulets, clocks, books, pamphlets, etc.

Review of Worshipping the Great Moderniser

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Review of Worshipping the Great Moderniser

This examination of the social imaginary surrounding Thai kingship and Thainess during the past century and a half yields an intriguing amalgam of ideas concerning popular religion, Buddhist kingship, nationalism, and material culture. .

Worshipping the Great Moderniser: King Chulalongkorn, Patron Saint of the Thai Middle Class

The dramatic heyday of the cult of Chulalongkorn has passed. It provides not only details about the different rituals and paraphernalia statues,

posters, amulets, clocks, books, pamphlets, etc.

Worshipping the Great Moderniser: King Chulalongkorn, Patron Saint of the Thai Middle Class

Consumers still buy amulets and portraits of Chulalongkorn to adorn their bodies and home altars. Arguing that the exalted expectations of modern Buddhist kingship are a product of the ambitions and anxieties of Thailand's expanding middle class, Irene Stengs compares the popular image of King Chulalongkorn with that of the present king, the highly venerated King Bhumibol Adulyadej, to show that while modern Buddhist kingship and current ideas of Thainess draw on traditional idioms, they are highly modern.

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Irene Stengs, *Worshipping the Great Moderniser: King Chulalongkorn, Patron Saint of the Thai Middle Class* Singapore and Seattle: NUS Press and University of Washington Press, 2009. Singapore : National University of Singapore Press , 2009. But since the dramatic emergence of the cult in the heady boom times of the 1990s, other devotional movements, centered on other deities Princess Suphankalaya and Jatukanramathep, for example have by now come and gone, part of the relentless churn of religious innovation and inspiration that characterizes popular religiosity in contemporary Thailand.

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