

Halikowski Smith

## Creolization and Diaspora in the Portuguese Indies

The Social World of Ayutthaya, 1640-1720

This book provides an original study of the sizeable Portuguese community in Ayutthaya, the chief river-state in Siam, during a period of apparent decline (1640-1720). Portuguese populations were displaced from their chief settlements like Melaka and Makassar, and attracted to the river-states of mainland South-East Asia by a protective model of kingship, hopes of international trade and the opportunity to harvest souls. A variety of sources will be used to shed light on the fortunes and make-up of this displaced, mixed-race 'tribe', which was largely independent of the matrices of Portuguese colonial power, and fared poorly alongside other foreign communities in this remarkably open, dynamic environment. Circumstances changed for the better after the National Revolution of 1688, when Portuguese started to fill many of the jobs at court and in commerce previously occupied by Frenchmen and northern Europeans.

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**169,50 €**

158,41 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

*Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage*

**Artikelnummer:** 9789004190481

**Medium:** Buch

**ISBN:** 978-90-04-19048-1

**Verlag:** Brill

**Erscheinungstermin:** 20.09.2011

**Sprache(n):** Englisch

**Auflage:** Erscheinungsjahr 2011

**Serie:** European Expansion and  
Indigenous Response

**Produktform:** Gebunden

**Gewicht:** 956 g

**Seiten:** 458

**Format (B x H):** 160 x 240 mm

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24.07.2024 | 12:18 Uhr

