

The Role of Law in the Socio-Economic Development of Southeast Asia

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The Article analyzes the economic and social problems of Southeast Asian countries, specifically the issue of land ownership and interests. It states that the two primary measures which need to be undertaken are either that of justice or that of technology, and that while the former has logical priority, the latter must be simultaneously pursued. In particular, social justice must be updated in its practical aspects which include the limitations of land ownership; the concept of just compensation; the conflict of owners and society over the unearned increment of land; the relative rights of the capitalist, the laborer and the public in relation to the enterprise's profits; and the limitations on successional rights. It also tackles the importance of the Rule of Law, as a social organization, not only as means of the masses to assert their rights against landlords and employers in the inverted power structure, but also as an indispensable aid and counter-checking organ to the government.

The Article likewise discusses the question of technology and how Western technology should be adapted to the local needs and capabilities of the countries. Apart from justice and technology, it also cites non-material forces such as leadership, nationalism and culture as factors that will motivate the people for socio-economic development. Lastly, it ends by emphasizing the need for international mutual assistance based on social justice which, in the end, will aid not only the benefitted nations but also the giving nations.