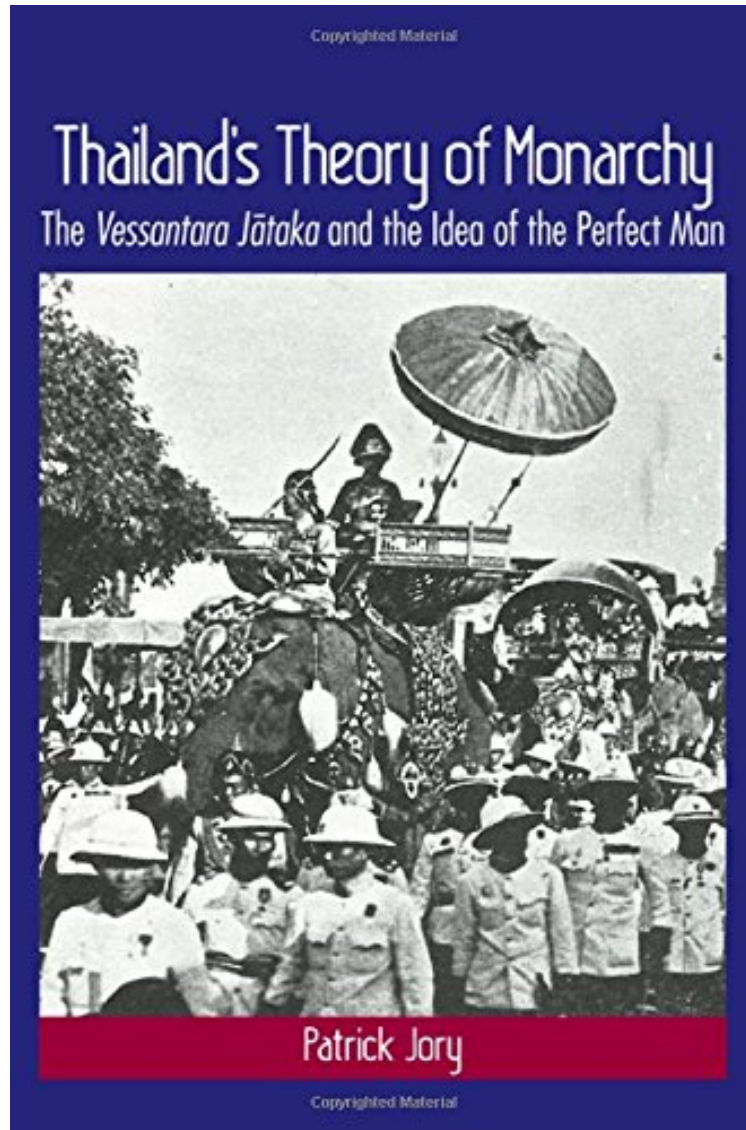


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Thailand's Theory of Monarchy: The Vessantara Jataka and the Idea of the Perfect Man

Patrick Jory

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Patrick Jory : Thailand's Theory of Monarchy: The Vessantara Jataka and the Idea of the Perfect Man before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thailand's Theory of Monarchy: The Vessantara Jataka and the Idea of the Perfect Man:

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and most likely will continue to have. However, reading the book it very quickly, became clear to me that the Jataka's importance for understanding much broader system of authority that you will often find in business as well - and in particular the whole concept of barami. I therefore recommend this book to anyone who are interested in Buddhism, Thailand, Political Theory and business to read this book.

2016 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Since the 2006 coup d'etat, Thailand has been riven by two opposing political visions: one which aspires to a modern democracy and the rule of law, and another which holds to the traditional conception of a kingdom ruled by an exemplary Buddhist monarch. Thailand has one of the world's largest populations of observant Buddhists and one of its last politically active monarchies. This book examines the Theravada Buddhist foundations of Thailand's longstanding institution of monarchy. Patrick Jory states that the storehouse of monarchical ideology is to be found in the popular literary genre known as the Jtakas, tales of the Buddha's past lives. The best-known of these, the Vessantara Jtaka, disseminated an ideal of an infinitely generous prince as a bodhisatta or future Buddha--an ideal which remains influential in Thailand today. Using primary and secondary source materials largely unknown in Western scholarship, Jory traces the history of the Vessantara Jtaka and its political-cultural importance from the ancient to the modern period. Although pressures from European colonial powers and Buddhist reformers led eventually to a revised political conception of the monarchy, the older Buddhist ideal of kingship has yet endured.

Essential. CHOICE""Essential." -- CHOICE About the Author Patrick Jory is Senior Lecturer in Southeast Asian History at the University of Queensland and the editor of Ghosts of the Past in Southern Thailand: Essays on the History and Historiography of Patani.