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Development and Dominion: Indigenous Peoples of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos deals with prevailing development ideologies and their impacts on indigenous societies with a particular focus on Cambodia, Laos and the central highlands of Vietnam. It reinforces the idea that development, as it is conceptualised and implemented, radically undermines local communities' ability to control the parameters of inevitable social and material changes. The more development projects choose new objectives and operating models the more the rhetoric and practices remain the same.

One of the strengths of the presentations is to convincingly advocate for closer ethnographic understanding in order to make any sort of cross-cultural negotiations and mutual engagement meaningful. This imperative is known to some extent, but it needs to be implemented more vehemently to make it more persuasive.

As a result, anthropology of development rather than development anthropology is proposed. The essential difference lies in the point of engagement. Development anthropology seeks to do development better, by trying to mitigate the effects of top-down programmes and allow some breathing space for local people to express their input. Anthropology of development, on the other hand, questions the very operating premises of contemporary development. This point is very much in line with the intent of the current book, even if some of the authors opt to challenge this position, being convinced that it is not the best strategy to offer radical critiques that few people in the world of development listen to, and preferring to work within the world of development programmes in the hope of providing salient lessons and constructive models.



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Frédéric Bourdier is an anthropologist for Bordeaux, attached to the French Research Institute for Development (IRD). He has been living six years in south India, working on social aspects of health issues and practices in Tamil villages and on sociocultural changes within the family unit occurring at the time of the HIV epidemic. He conducted interdisciplinary research in French and Brazilian Amazon on migration and health related issues from 1999 to 2003 and was attached to the Museum Emilio Goeldi in Belém, Pará. He went to Cambodia in 1994 and studied the social ecology of the indigenous people, specifically the Tampuan, in Ratanakiri province. Since 2004, he has been in charge of a French-Cambodian programme dealing with the health policies and the mobilisation of civil society in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He periodically returns to Ratanakiri to the villages where he previously lived to study the impacts of development on the lives of the highland peoples.

Front cover photo: One of the crucial annual ceremonies liable to guarantee village collective welfare among the Tampuan (Frédéric Bourdier)

Back cover photos: (left) Shop in a highlander village selling imported products and adulterated alcohol (Frédéric Bourdier) **(right)** Self-work women organization created for enhancing income generation activities in a Kreung village (Frédéric Bourdier)



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