

LAOS AND THE LAOTIANS

ປະເທດລາວ ຄົນລາວ

ໂດຍ ອາຈານ ຄຳຈິງ ຫລວງປະເສີດ
Khamchong Luangpraseut
Illustrations by Halinka Luangpraseut



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Luangpraseut Khamchong

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Summary: In Laos, every Lao is a Laotian but not every Laotian is a Lao. With his heart and soul, the author attempts to address the complex nature of the Laotian multi-ethnic society. The book comes with captivating and sensitive illustrations by Halinka Luangpraseut, an accomplished Polish artist who speaks Lao and has spent many years in the former Kingdom of Laos.

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ສະບາຍດີ

Sabaaidii

WELCOME

TO

LAOS



WELCOME TO
THE LAND OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY



AND THE
GENTLE
PEOPLES.



ສັງຄົມຊົນຊາດຊົນເຜົ່າລາວ - A LAOTIAN MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY



Hi! My name is Phengsy.

Some people call me

Miss Phengsy.

ສະບາຍດີ!

ຂ້ອຍມີຊື່ວ່າ ນາງແພງສີ.

ບາງຄົນກໍ່ຮຽກຂ້ອຍວ່າ

ຍາເອ້ອຍແພງສີ.

ຜູ້ນັ້ນແມ່ນນ້ອງສາວຂອງຂ້ອຍ.

ລາວມີຊື່ວ່ານາງພູທອນ.

This is
my younger sister.
Her name
is Phouthone.



ຜູ້ໄດ້ ຜູ້ນຳແມ່ນ

ທ້າວທະນິງ.

ລາວເປັນຫລານຊາຍຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ.

ລາວມີອາຍຸໄດ້ແປດປີ.

ລາວເປັນຄົນພິເສດແທ້ໆ.

ນອກຈາກເປັນຄົນມັກອ່ານແລ້ວ ທະນິງ

ຍັງເປັນເດັກທີ່ສົນໃຈກ່ຽວກັບປຶ້ມພາສາລາວ

ປະເທດລາວແລະຄົນລາວໂດຍທົ່ວໄປ.

And this is



Thanong

who is our nephew.

He is eight years old.

He is very special.

He just loves to read.

He is most interested

in Lao books,

the country of Laos and

the Laotian people

in general.

ອັນນີ້ຄື

ຍາພໍ່ສິລາ ແລະ ຍາແມ່ອຸ່ນເຮືອນ ຫລວງສົມບັດ.
ເພິ່ນເປັນພໍ່ແມ່ຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ.

This is

Mr. Sila and Mrs. Ounheuan Luangsombath.

They are our parents.

ຫລວງສົມບັດ ແມ່ນນາມສະກຸນຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ. ຕາມທີ່ຈິງແລ້ວພໍ່ແມ່
ຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍມີນາມສະກຸນມາກ່ອນປີ 1945 ເລີຍ.
ແຕ່ເຖິງຢ່າງໃດກໍດີ ພວກຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກເປັນກຽດທີ່ໄດ້ເກີດ
ເປັນລູກເຕົ້າໃນຄອບຄົວຫລວງສົມບັດ.

Luangsombath
is our family name.

But
our father and mother,
like most Lao ethnics,
did not have
a family name
before 1945.

Nevertheless,
we, all three of us,
feel very proud
and honored
to be born into
the Luangsombath
family.





ພິນາຊ - A BUDDHIST MONK

ພິກຂຸອົງນີ້ແມ່ນຄູບາອາຈານຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ. ເພິ່ນຈຳສິນຢູ່ວັດສີພິມ.

ເພິ່ນມີນາມວ່າ ພຣະອາຈານ ຜາລີ ພວນມະໂນທັມ.

ຢູ່ໃນປະຊາຄົມລາວຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ

ມີຄົນເຄົາລົບນັບຖືພຣະອາຈານຜາລີຫລາຍທີ່ສຸດ.

This is our mentor and spiritual leader.

He is a Buddhist monk. Most people call him
"The Most Reverend Phaly Phouan-Manotham".

But we just call him "Acharn Phaly".

Master Phaly is much revered and respected by
every one in our Laotian community.

Now,
all three of us,
my sister, my nephew and I, will do our best
to introduce Laos and the Laotians
to YOU and Your Friends.
We hope we could contribute
to a better understanding
of the country of
LAOS and
its gentle peoples: The LAOTIANS.

ບັດນີ້, ພວກຂ້ອຍທັງສາມ, ພູທອນ ທະນິງ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍ
ເອງ, ຈະພະຍາຍາມສຸດຄວາມສາມາດໃນການແນະນຳ
ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າ ພ້ອມດ້ວຍພວກໝູ່ຄູ່ຂອງເຈົ້າເຂົ້າໃຈ ກ່ຽວກັບ
ປະເທດລາວແລະຄົນລາວດີຂຶ້ນກວ່າເກົ່າ.

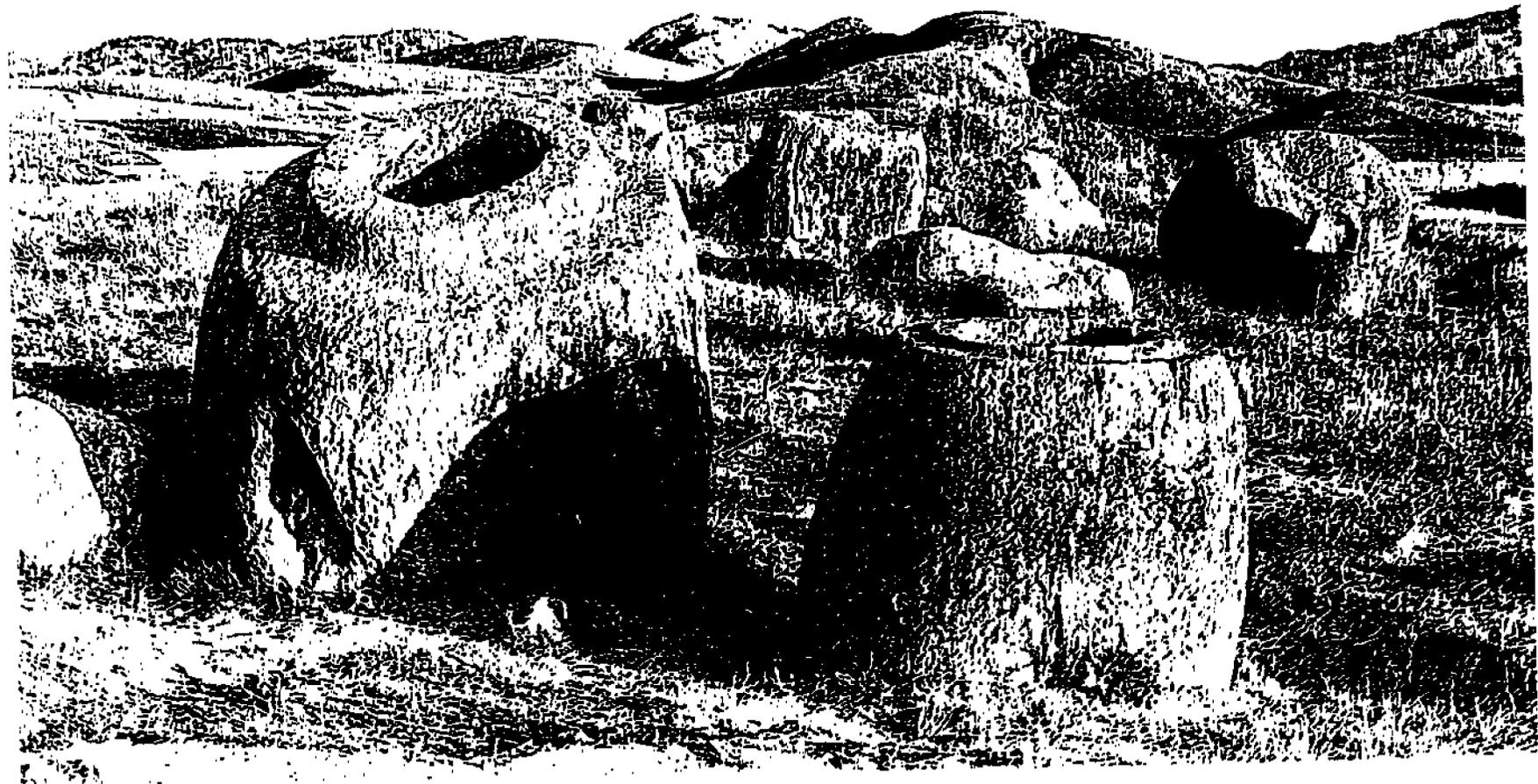


ແມ່ນ້ຳຂອງຈາກຝັ່ງລາວ - THE MEKONG RIVER FROM THE LAOTIAN SIDE



ປະເທດລາວ
ເປັນປະເທດໜຶ່ງ
ທີ່ເກົ່າແກ່
ໃນພາກພື້ນ
ເອເຊີຽອາຄະເນ.

Laos is one of the oldest countries in Southeast Asia.



ທົ່ງໄຫຫີນໃນແຂວງຊຽງຂວາງ - THE PLAIN OF JARS IN XIENKHOANG PROVINCE

ປະເທດລາວ

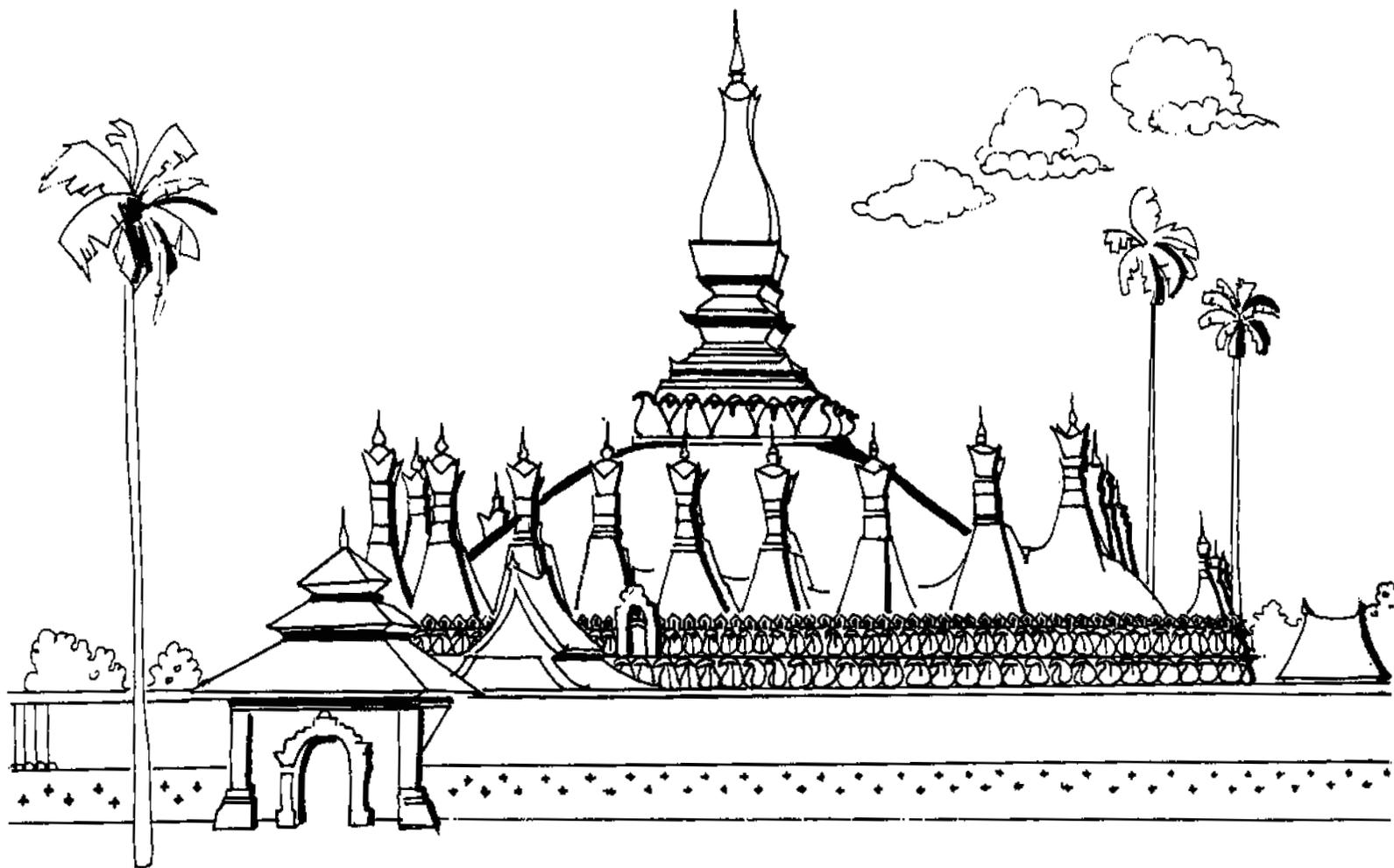
ເຄີຍເປັນ ປະເທດເອກຣາດ,

ເຄີຍເປັນ ປະເທດອະນານິຄົມ,

ເຄີຍເປັນ ພຣະຣາຊອານາຈັກ

ແລະ ໄດ້ກາຍມາເປັນ ສາທາຣະນະຣັດ

ໃນວັນທີ ໒ ທັນວາ ປີ ຄ.ສ. ໑໙໗໕.



ທາດຫລວງ - THE THATLUANG STUPA IN VIANGCHAN (Vientiane)

Laos

used to be

an independent country,

a colony,

a kingdom

and has become a republic

since December 2, 1975.



ທ່າພຣະໄຕປີຕິກທີ່ວັດສີສະເກດ - THE VAT SISAKET PAGODA LIBRARY

ອັນນີ້

ແມ່ນ ທຸງຊາດລາວ

ພາຍໃຕ້

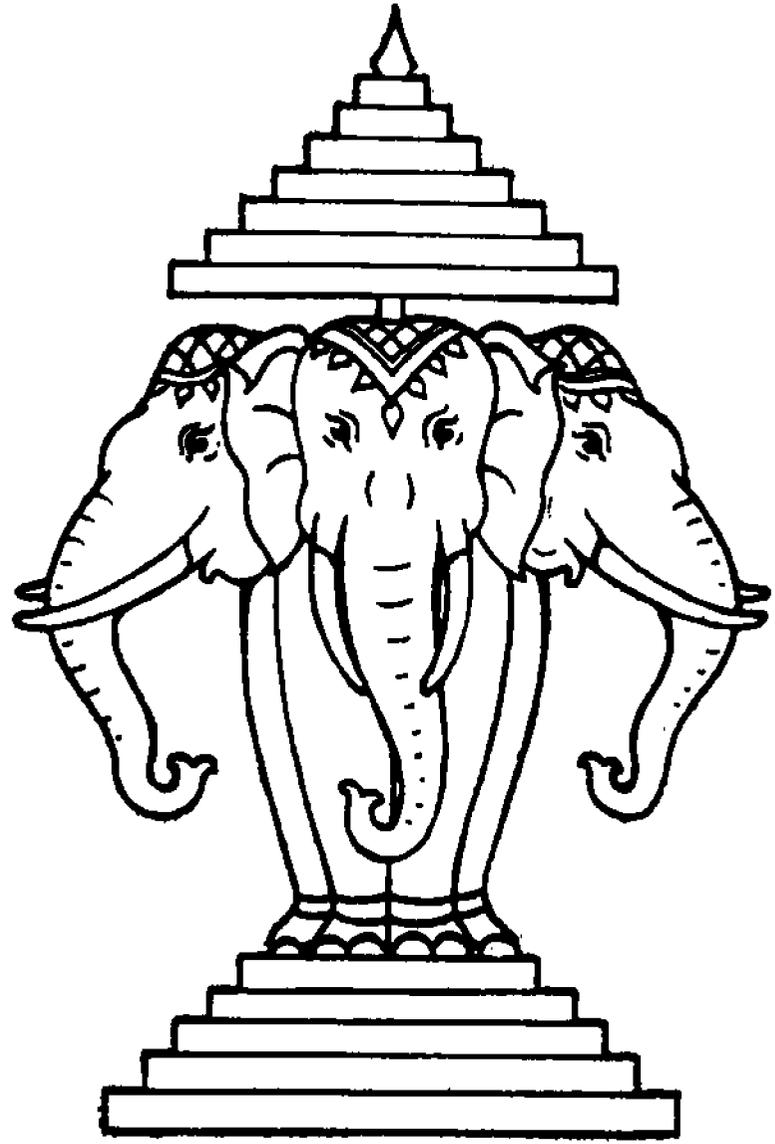
ລະບອບການປົກຄອງ

ຂອງ ພຣະຣາຊອານາຈັກລາວ.

This is

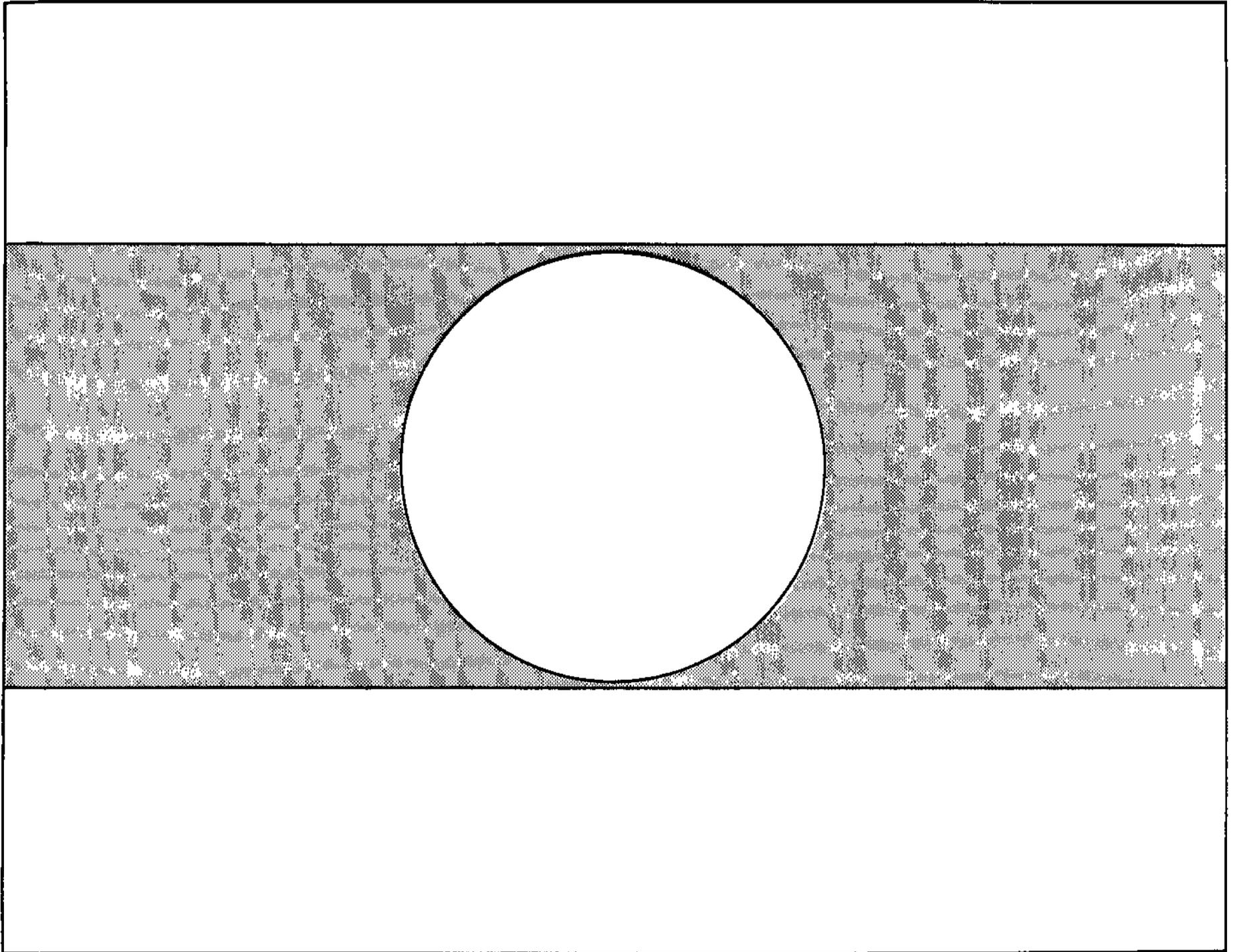
the national flag

of the Kingdom of Laos.



ແລະ ອັນນີ້
ແມ່ນທຸງຊາດລາວ
ພາຍໃຕ້ລະບອບການປົກຄອງ
ຂອງ ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ.

And this is
the national flag
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



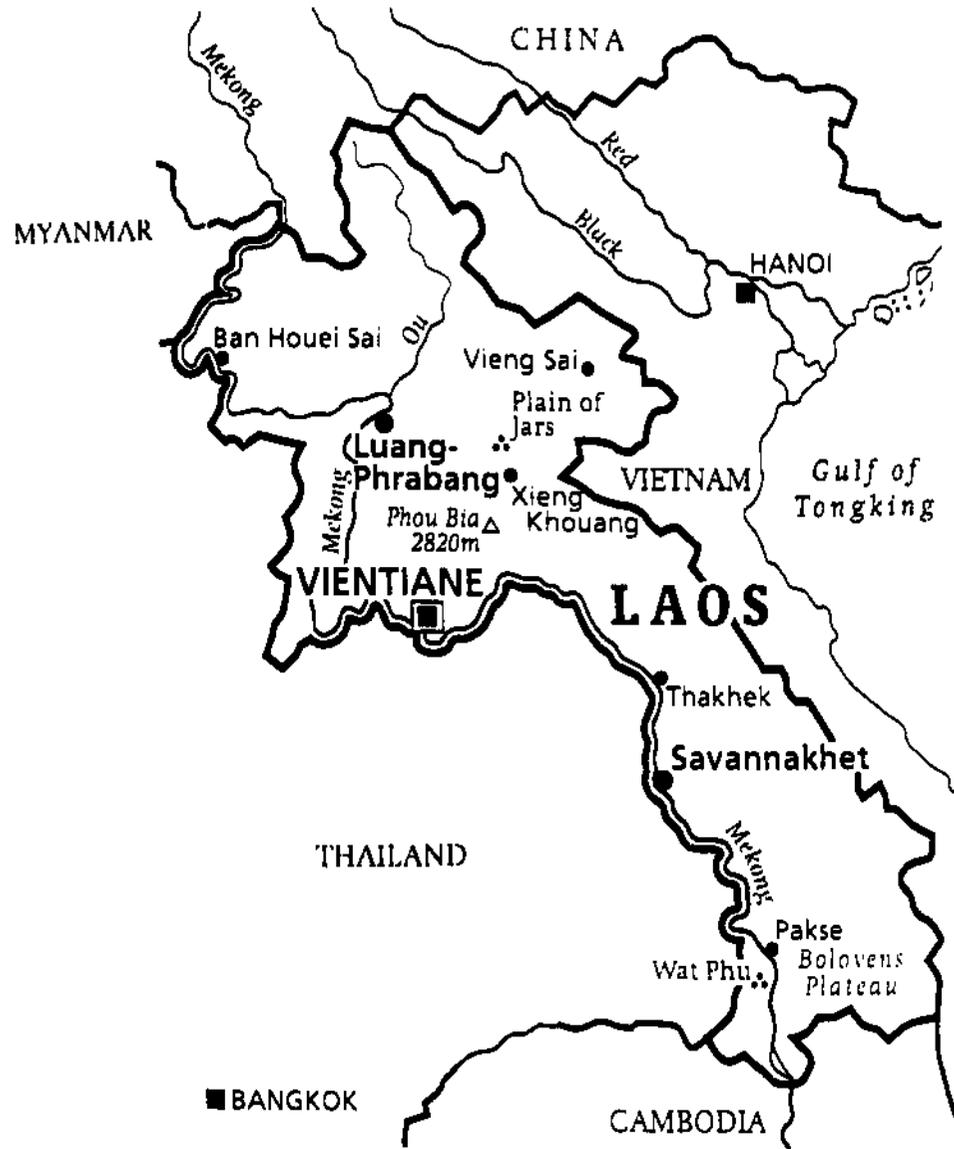
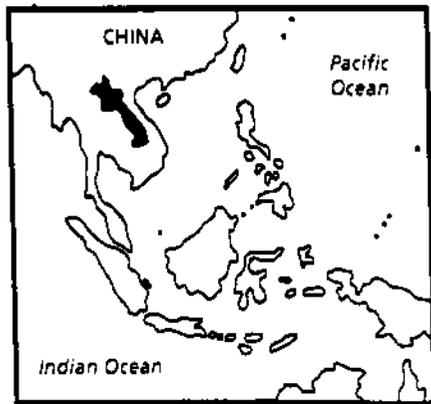
ລາວມີເພື່ອນບ້ານໃກ້ຄຽງ ໕ ປະເທດ:

ປະເທດຈີນ ຢູ່ທິດເໜືອ, ປະເທດຫວຽດນາມ ຢູ່ທິດຕາເວັນອອກ,
ປະເທດໄທ ຢູ່ທິດຕາເວັນຕົກ, ປະເທດກຳມູເຈັຽ ຢູ່ທິດໃຕ້
ແລະ ປະເທດມຽນມາ (ພະມ້າ) ຢູ່ທິດຕາເວັນຕົກສ່ຽງເໜືອ.

Laos

has 5 immediate neighboring countries:

China to the North, Vietnam to the East,
Thailand to the West, Cambodia to the South
and Myanmar(Burma) to the Northwest.



ຄົນລາວ
ມີເຄົາກໍາເນີດ
ມາຈາກຊົນຊາດຊົນເຜົ່າ.

Laotians
are made of many peoples.



ສັງຄົມຊົນຊາດຊົນເຜົ່າລາວ - A LAOTIAN MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY

ຄົນລາວສ່ວນຫລາຍ

ເຊື່ອຖື

ພຸທສາສນາ

Most Laotians are Buddhist.



ไปตักบาตร - ALMS OFFERINGS

ເຜົ່າຂະມຸແລະເຜົ່າຊົນຊາດລາວເທິງຕ່າງໆ ເປັນເຜົ່າທຳອິດທຳອ່

ທີ່ໄດ້ດຳລົງຊີວິດ
ຢູ່ເຂດນ້ຳແດນດິນ

ຂອງປະເທດລາວ

ປັດຈຸບັນ.



The Khmu
and other
Lao-Theung groups
were the first settlers
in the land of
today's
Laos.



ຫລາຍສັຕວັດຕໍ່ມາ,
ເຜົ່າລາວ
ແລະຊົນຊາດລາວລຸ່ມຕ່າງໆທັງຫລາຍ
ໄດ້ຍົກຍ້າຍເຂົ້າດໍາລົງຊີວິດ
ໃນເຂດນ້ຳແດນດິນ
ດັງກ່າວ.

Centuries later,

came the Lao and other
Lao-Loum groups.



ລາວ ຫລື ລາວລຸ່ມ - LAO or LAO-LOUM

ພາຍລຸນ ປີ ຄ.ສ. ໑໘໓໐ ຫລື ໑໘໔໐
ບັນດາຊົນຊາດລາວສູງ,
ໂດຍສະເພາະ
ເຜົ່າມັ້ງ ແລະ ເຜົ່າມ່ຽນ,
ກໍໄດ້ຍົກຍ້າຍຈາກປະເທດຈີນເຂົ້າມາສ້າງຊີວິດໃໝ່
ໃນຜືນແຜ່ນດິນລາວປັດຈຸບັນ.



ມັງ ຫລື ລາວສູງ - THE HMONG or LAO-SUNG

And most recently,
after
1830 or 1840
the Hmong, the Iu-Mien
and other Lao-Sung groups
migrated from China
and have started a new life
in today's Laos.



ມ່ຽນ (ອ້ວມ່ຽນ) ຫລື ລາວສູງ - MIEN (IU-MIEN) or LAO-SUNG

ຄົນລາວເປັນຄົນມັກຍິ້ມແລະມັກຍິ້ມຢູ່ບໍ່ເຊົາ.
ຄົນລາວມັກຍິ້ມເວລາຮູ້ສຶກມ່ວນຊື່ນເບິກບານໃຈ
ແລະກໍມັກຍິ້ມເວລາໂສກເສົ້າເຫງົາໃຈ.
ແຕ່ໂດຍທົ່ວໄປແລ້ວ, ຄົນລາວເປັນຄົນມ່ວນຊື່ນເບິກບານໃຈ.

Laotians love to smile.

They smile a lot.

They smile when they are happy and
they smile when they are sad.

But basically, Laotians are
a bunch of friendly and happy people.



ຄວາມຮັກແພງ
ແລະ
ການຜ່ອນສົມຜ່ອນຍາວ
ເປັນຄຸນຄ່າທີ່ສູງສົ່ງໃນສັງຄົມລາວ.

Friendship and Moderation
are held
in high esteem
in the Laotian society.

