Luxury and Rubble

Erik Harms

Published by University of California Press

Harms, Erik.
Luxury and Rubble: Civility and Dispossession in the New Saigon.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/63401
INDEX

Page references in italics refer to illustrations.

acidic water, Vietnamese, 257n10; of Thủ Thiêm, 191
activism, Vietnamese: surveillance of, 4. See also resistance
American Institute of Architects, award for Saigon South, 33, 232n8
An Khánh Ward (Thủ Thiêm): ferry terminal of, 154; religious structures of, 132–33
An Lợi Đông, 157; đền of, 134
An Phú district, 66
apartments (Ho Chi Minh City): lifestyles in, 112; resettlement into, 1, 205; of Saigon South, 38. See also housing
apartments (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 41–43; cost of, 74, 94; financing of, 93, 240n31; phong thủy (feng shui) for, 75–76; and traditional homes, 73–74, 240n30
Arendt, Hannah: on post-Holocaust rights, 215
Asia, new rich of, 94, 241n8, 242n10. See also cities, Asian
atomization, in apartment living, 112
auto-urbanization (đô thị hóa tự phát), 165, 252n25
Bạch Đằng waterfront, 117, 119; wharf, 244n1
Ba Đình Square, 165–66
BBC tiếng Việt, 101
Benjamin, Walter, 5
Bến Nghé Canal, 24, 191
Bến-ngự wharf, 246n13
Bến Nhà Rồng, 191
Bhabha, Homi, 63
Biggs, David, 35
billboards, 159, 199, 250n8–9; advertising on, 167; propaganda on, 157–58, 167; removal of, 154; for Sasaki plan, 162, 163
Bình Xuyên, subversive space of, 144
Brasilia, social isolation in, 112
Brazil, insurgent citizenship in, 212
Brink Hotel bombing (1964), 144
Brown, David, 256n70
Buddhism, self-discipline in, 104
built landscapes, political orientation in, 243n19
Bùi Thành Sơn, 54
Caldeira, Teresa, 96
Cao, Doctor (pseudonymous interviewee): children of, 94, 96; class status of, 91; morning exercises of, 86–87, 93, 97; on privatization, 95; renunciation of socialism, 89; with Việt Cộng, 88
Cao Đài: incantations, 134; subversive space of, 144; Thủ Thiêm temple, 133
capitalism: colonial, 241n6; destructive, 5–6; discourse of benevolence, 64; global, 166; as path to socialism, 46; pleasures of, 6; primitive accumulation in, 167, 221; and state authoritarianism, 15
CARIC ship repair buildings (Thủ Thiêm), 119, 134, 183
car ownership, in Ho Chi Minh City, 92
Catholic Church, Vietnamese: Thủ Thiêm land holdings of, 151, 152; Vietnamese government and, 247n11. See also Congregation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross; Thủ Thiêm church
CB Richard Ellis (real estate firm), 75
Central Trading and Development Corporation (CT&D), 253n43; Ting’s chairmanship of, 50, 52
Certeau, Michel de, 18
Cheyi Chétha II (king of Cambodia), 246n11
China: middle class of, 91; “New Towns” of, 112; urban development in, 60, 251n19
Chinese, ethnic: of Ho Chi Minh City, 49, 50; postwar exodus of, 235n45
Chợ Lớn (Chinatown), 49
Chợ Lớn Investment and Import Export Corporation (Cholimex), 49
cho Tấn Mỹ, “wet market” at, 100
cho Xóm Chiếu, markets at, 192
Chu Phạm Ngọc Hiển, 211
cities, Asian: class spatialization in, 82; inclusion/exclusion in, 239n26; new urban zones of, 10, 11; urban integrated megaprojects in, 8, 10, 168
cities, developing: aspiration in, 230n11
cities, Vietnamese: concept of rights, 22; contested land of, 212; spatial dynamics of, 83
citizenship, Vietnamese: agitation over, 214; civility in, 4, 9, 63; insurgent, 212; and land use rights, 4, 7, 22; repression in, 63. See also rights, Vietnamese
city people (dân thành phố), 117; Thủ Thiêm residents as, 173
city street houses (nhà phố), 184
civic consciousness, in modernist cities, 112
civility, in Chinese urban development, 60, 238n4
civility, Vietnamese (văn minh), 60; aspirational, 64; autonomy through, 72; citizenship and, 4, 9, 63; class distinction in, 62, 82; Communist Party’s use of, 62; as consciousness, 68; contradictory potential of, 63; in denigration of minorities, 62; dependence on action, 79; in desire for improvement, 239n15; double-edged, 63–64; as empty slogan, 77–81; eviction and, 20; exclusion in, 63–64, 72–73, 81–85; and expansion of civil society, 15; as form of power, 67; and gender dynamics, 68, 82; government claims for, 217; hegemonic, 60–63; historical meanings of, 59–60; in language of resistance, 20; legitimation of inequality, 82; lived reality of, 77–81; materialism in, 62, 84, 239n21; meanings of, 237n1; as mode of comportment, 67; orderliness in, 78; on park signs, 60, 61, 238n3; in Phú Mỹ Hưng, 9, 14, 19, 20, 57, 85–85, 217; political implications of, 69, 81–85, 84; polysemous nature of, 62–63; problematic discourse of, 63; and problem of rights, 217–22; in problem of rights, 63; rhetoric of, 84; role in dispossession, 7; rule-oriented behavior in, 78–79; self-discipline through, 217; sly, 63, 238n12; in spatial order, 82; subversion of hierarchies, 68; suppression of free speech, 238n6; in traffic, 78, 79, 81, 240n32; transformative possibilities of, 84; uncultured behavior and, 69; in urban development, 221, 238n12; use in resistance, 63; from wasteland, 30
civilization: in anthropology, 60–61; built on sacrifice, 218; as urban domination, 61; in Western thought, 218
civilization, Vietnamese (văn minh): as alternative to colonial rule, 61–62; in apparel, 80; building of, 59; of ethnic minorities, 80; of Ho Chi Minh City, 13, 21; narratives of, 55–56; of Phú Mỹ Hưng, 21, 59; rights struggle in, 222; in wasteland narratives, 48, 233n17
class: civility and, 62, 82; consolidation through exclusion, 19, 73, 91–95. See also elites; middle class
Coffyn, Colonel: plan for Saigon, 135, 137
corporate discourse, Vietnamese: national pride in, 161–66. See also market economy, Vietnamese Communist Party, Chinese: social control by, 60
Communist Party, Vietnamese, 4; corruption in, 168–69; criticism of, 106; on culture (văn hóa), 62; landlord class in, 251n31; Sixth Congress, 56
community (cộng đồng): of belonging, 160, 251n14; in Phú Mỹ Hưng, 95, 99–101, 103; transcendent, 160; in urban development, 238n12
community formation, exclusion in, 19
community halls (đình), of Thủ Thiêm, 132, 133, 134, 157, 247n36
compensation (Thủ Thiêm): calculation of, 186, 206; calculative language of, 207; claim process for, 178; corruption in, 204; importance for residents, 202, 204–7; interest
rates in, 204; justice in, 212; land law on, 195; low rates for, 21–22, 44, 45, 178–79, 258n16; narrative patterns of, 200–201; negotiation for, 193–94, 205, 206, 256n70; officials’ errors in, 205; pace of, 250n4; preparation for, 207; purchasing power of, 216; qualitative/quantitative expressions for, 192–97, 201; stable rates for, 176; tactics for, 181; Thủ Thiêm ICA on, 157. See also dispossession; evictions
Congregation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross (Đồng Mên Thánh già, convent), 122, 131–32, 154; courtyard, 133
Công ty Liên doanh Tân Thuận, 50
consciousness (ý thức): and action, 90; blindness to problems in, 114; building of, 5; civility as, 68; in conversation, 111; education in, 89, 110–11; exclusion in, 91–95; exercise of, 111–14; higher (cao hơn), 72; of Phú Mỹ Hưng residents, 14, 19, 57, 85, 87–97, 110–11, 113, 217, 223; self-aggrandizement in, 90; self-discipline in, 110–11; social, 14, 81, 89, 91; space and, 81, 101–2; urban, 9, 14, 19, 57, 89; wealth and, 111
coparcenary consumption, 175; by Phú Mỹ Hưng residents, 92, 242n11
consumer rights, Vietnamese, 98
conversation: among Phú Mỹ Hưng residents, 99–101, 105, 106, 113, 243n18; consciousness in, 111; poetry in, 108–10; political messages in, 105, 106; in private space, 106
cookery, Vietnamese, 99
corporations: in public space, 165, 251n23; as shadow governments, 242n12
corruption: among Party officials, 168–69; in compensation processes, 204; in Ho Chi Minh City, 69–70; in land accumulation, 168
Crescent Lake (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 9; walks around, 94, 95
Crescent Mall (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 31; morning exercises at, 86
Crescent Residences (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 42
củ lao (river island), 197
cultivation narratives, Chinese, 232n14
cultural essence (bản sắc văn hóa), 240n30
culture (văn hóa), Vietnamese Communist Party on, 62
Cuong Do La (“Dollar’s Cuong”), 92
Dear, Michael J., 242n12
Debord, Guy, 5
Declaration of Independence, Vietnamese, 166
Defrain, François, 164
demolition: for new urban zones, 11, 153; and notions of rights, 187
demolition (Thủ Thiêm), 10, 153, 155, 176; before, 156; exceptions to, 157; justice in, 187; land after, 157, 179–80; and land value, 185–88; numbers of, 185, 257n3; transformative, 187, 257n4
DeSo plan: private commercial space in, 164–65; public space in, 164–66
Đình An Khánh community hall, 132; artifacts of, 134; establishment of, 133, 247n36
đình festivals, 134
Đinh Thiện Lý (Lawrence S. Ting) school, 78
Directorate of Reconstruction and Urban Planning (Saigon), master plan of, 148
displacement (Thủ Thiêm), 1, 4, 10–11, 158–61; ambivalence concerning, 181; collective/individual interests in, 206; justice for, 205–6, 213; number of, 256n74; resistance to, 188; suffering from, 205; through modernization, 218
Dispossession, Thủ Thiêm: demands for justice in, 213; holdouts against, 202; land accumulation through, 7–8, 229n5; language of affect in, 187; language of rights in, 5, 187, 188; property rights in, 11; resistance to, 8; role of civility in, 7; through land grabs, 169; and urban civility, 219. See also compensation; evictions; land reclamation
District Nine Landowners Association (Hội Bất Động Sản Quận 9), 152, 249n77
District One (Ho Chi Minh City): behavior in, 79–81; dirtiness of, 77; impolite language in, 79; Trần Hưn Đạo Street, 74
District Seven (Ho Chi Minh City), 2; development of, 1, 37–38; working-class neighborhoods of, 37
District Two (Ho Chi Minh City): razed neighborhoods of, 24; urbanization of, 1; warnings about, 244n3
Đổi Mới (renewal policy), 4, 153; capitalism in, 46; critiques of, 235n39; distancing from past, 237n81; incremental emergence of, 47; in Phú Mỹ Hưng, 46, 56; political actors in, 47; as postcolonial transition, 46; timeline of, 48; Ting’s role in, 54; in urban development, 166; under Võ Văn Kiệt, 23, 170
Đồng Khởi (Uprising) Street, 117
Đồng Nai, 126
Đồng Nai River, 151; dredging of, 155, 181
exclusion: in civility, 63–64, 72–73, 81–85; class-based, 19, 21, 72, 73, 90, 91–95, 113; in community formation, 19; gendered, 73; in new urban zones, 113; in Phú Mỹ Hưng, 21, 72, 84, 90, 91, 113; powers of, 16; in privatization, 90; in property rights, 19–20, 220, 260n30; in social consciousness, 91–95

export processing zones, 229n6

fear, urban, 96–97, 242n16

fence breaking (phá rào), 51, 167, 236n59, 251n30; at Lawrence S. Ting School, 75; Võ Văn Kiệt’s, 252n37

Festive Beauty (Mỹ Khánh), 41

founding figures, Vietnamese: as tutelary deities, 236n64; in wasteland narratives, 52

Franklin (brig), 125, 128

free speech, limits on, 4. See also conversation

Freud, Sigmund: Civilization and Its Discontents, 218

Friday Group (Nhóm Thứ Sáu), 24, 231n26; development proposal of, 50; Kiệt and, 49

Gainsborough, Martin, 47, 49; on property rights, 251n31

Gammeltoft, Tine, 251n14

Gà nướng Pháp restaurant, 28

golden land (đất vàng): Thủ Thiêm as, 253n43; from wasteland, 20, 52

Gordillo, Gastón, 5–6

Gordillo, Gastón, 5–6

Granview apartment (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 42

Hà (pseudonymous interviewee), 70–73; apartment of, 71; attraction of Phú Mỹ Hưng for, 70–71; husband of, 71; occupation of, 71; use of civility, 82–83

Habermas, Jürgen: on public sphere, 113, 240n1

Hall, Derek, 16

Hàm Nghi boulevard, 247n25
Hanoi: culture of, 99; Hồ Kiem Lake, 87; master plan (1992), 170; Red River, 245n15; versus Saigon, 99; strangers from, 71
Haussmann, Baron: reconstruction of Paris, 1, 20
Hayton, Bill, 106
Hébrard, Ernest: plan for Saigon, 135, 138
Herzfeld, Michael, 109
Hirsch, Philip, 16
Historical traditions, Vietnamese, 36; invented, 233n19
Hoa Hao, subversive space of, 144
Hồ Chí Minh, 134; departure from Thủ Thiêm, 134; memorialization of, 55; resting place of, 165–66
Ho Chi Minh City: agriculture around, 52; alleyway culture of, 242n14; architecture of, 47; bottom-up perspectives on, 18; as business hub, 10; car ownership in, 92, 239n25; civic responsibility in, 11; civilization history of, 36; corruption in, 69–70; disorder of 1998, 166; downtown of, 1; drinking dens of, 66, 81; entry into, 23–24; foreign businesses in, 170; gold in, 240n28; growth of, 36–38, 41–44; income disparity in, 153; infrastructure of, 174, 253n44; inner-city districts (quận) of, 37, 173, 254n52; Kiệt’s influence in, 170; loan debt of, 153; mapmaking techniques for, 245n6; maps, 3, 122, 123–24; market economy in, 47; master plan for, 13, 229n6; multiple currencies of, 258n24; periurban area of, 35–38, 52, 55–57; political life of, 4; political repression in, 230n12; redistricting of, 173–74, 176; residential alleyways of, 72, 77; rubble of, 13; sentimental aspects of, 160; study abroad programs in, 244n3; sustainable growth in, 161; working-class neighborhoods of, 23, 37. See also Phú Mỹ Hưng; Thủ Thiêm; urban development
Ho Chi Minh City People’s Committee: on compensation claims, 178; creation of Thủ Thiêm ICA, 177
Ho Chi Minh City residents: car ownership among, 239n25; middle-class, 242n10; multiple perspectives of, 13; on Phú Mỹ Hưng, 56; on Phú Mỹ suspension bridge, 17; self-responsibility of, 243n20; on Thủ Thiêm, 117, 118
Hóc Môn District, 65
Holston, James, 112
Homes, Vietnamese: ancestral altars of, 76; multigenerational, 96; traditional, 73–74, 183–84, 184, 185, 188, 198, 200, 207–8, 240n30. See also apartments; housing
Hồ Đất District (Kiên Giang Province), 55
Hồng (wife of Tâm, pseudonymous interviewee), 208, 209; ancestors of, 200; on compensation, 200; on demolition, 199–200; on injustice, 197–202; on land values, 200; tube home of, 197
Hopper, Edward: Nighthawks, 242n13
Housing, Vietnamese: auto-constructed, 38, 234n28; bubble of 2011–12, 99; cost of, 94; sociality in, 96—Phù Mỹ Hưng, 38, 39–40, 41–43, 73, 74–76, 94; restricted-access, 96—Thủ Thiêm, 125; riverine, 126. See also apartments; homes
Hồ Xuân Hương, poetry of, 108, 243n126–27
Huang, Liling, 242n12
Hull, Matthew, 248n54
Huỳnh Đức, exposé of postwar period, 252n37
Huỳnh Phú Sang, 34–35
Hypermasculinity, Vietnamese, 69, 70; control of, 82–83, 104
Individualism: and division of labor, 112; in public sphere, 89; serial, 112
Indonesia, gated communities of, 91
Industrial Promotion Company (IPC), 50, 235n35. See also Tân Thuận Export Processing Zone Joint Venture
Infrastructure: of Ho Chi Minh City, 174, 253n44; human impacts of, 2; land use rights for, 174; of Phú Mỹ Hưng, 38, 96; security, 96; of Thủ Thiêm New Urban Zone, 176
Inner-city districts (quận nội thành), 37, 173, 254n52
Intelectuals, Vietnamese: readings of, 242n17; of Saigon, 244n35
Jamieson, Neil, 243n27
Justice: in compensation, 212; in demolition, 187; for displacement, 205–6, 213; for evictions,
through property rights, 16; Thủ Thiêm residents on, 189, 196, 197–202

Kerkvliet, Benedict, 193–94, 258n17

Khmer (người Miên), 190; lifeways of, 35; of southern Vietnam, 35–36, 233n17; at Thủ Thiêm, 190

Khương Văn Mười, 166

Kim, Annette, 253n42, 258n16; on “talking back,” 260n20; on urban rights, 16

Kunming (China): hyper-individuation in, 112; master-planned development in, 91; upscale housing in, 19

Ky, Pêtrus, 130, 246n13

Labbé, Danielle, 170

Lan Anh Nguyen, 237n66

land, Vietnamese: commodification of, 7, 181, 221; contested, 2; “liberation” of, 16; opening (mở đất) of, 50

land accumulation: discourse of rights in, 19–20; resistance to, 7; through dispossession, 7–8, 229n5. See also real estate speculation

land clearance (Thủ Thiêm), 10, 155, 179–80, 202; complaints on, 211; cost of, 176. See also evictions

land clearance (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 44

land conversion: problems with, 254n57; rural idiocy tropes in, 255n58

land disputes: legitimacy in, 194; qualitative/quantitative idioms for, 194–97, 201; spiritual convictions in, 194

land expropriation, 249n65; in Doxiadis Plan, 147–48; for new urban zones, 213; in Wurster Plan, 151

land grabs: dispossessed Vietnamese on, 169; global, 167; socialist solution to, 260n31

land law, Vietnamese, 5; citizens’ awareness of, 212; of 1992, 8, 51; land transfer in, 171; revisions to, 153

—of 2003: compensation in, 195; resettlement in, 212, 258n23

land reclamation: increase in, 213; legal basis for, 155; under Thủ Thiêm ICA, 178

land reclamation, forced (cưỡng chế thu hồi đất), protests against, 155

Land to the Tiller program, 198, 258n26

land use rights: and citizens’ rights, 4, 7, 22; city residents on, 15; and demolition of Thủ Thiêm, 185–88; emergent conceptions of, 221; exclusionary, 8; fees for, 105, 213, 217; “ghost decisions” on, 213; inclusive, 8; for infrastructure, 174; introduction of, 8; language of rights in, 5; market in, 176; sale of permits for, 46; transferable value of, 179, 253n42

land values: and property rights, 219–20; reductive concept of, 186; World Bank report on, 254n55

land values (Thủ Thiêm): creation of, 185–88; idioms of, 201; market-based, 194; monetary instruments of, 195–96; qualitative/quantitative expressions of, 192–97, 201; in rule of law, 186; varying criteria for, 201

law, rule of, 15, 104–5, 231n16; illegal, 215; land values in, 186

law, Vietnamese: as basis for rights, 214; economic, 214–15. See also land law, Vietnamese

Lawrence S. Ting Memorial School, 53; commuters to, 58; fence breaking (phá rào) at, 75; Phú Mỹ Hưng project at, 27–39, 43, 45; student opinions on, 58–59

Le Brun, Théodore: map of Saigon, 135, 136

Lê Côn g Định, 260n25

Le Corbusier: modernism of, 140; use of local conditions, 248n54

Lefebvre, Henri, 81

legibility, state forms of, 245n7

Lê Minh Khuê: on civility, 68; “Scenes from an Alley,” 68–69, 239n24

lên đồng séances, 134

Lê Quả, 169

Lê Thanh Hải, 177

Lễ Thành Hầu Nguyễn Hữu Cảnh, 36

Leshkowich, Ann Marie, 241n9, 260n30

Let Me Make This Place My Homeland (Xin nhận nơi này làm quê hương, 2005), 53–54

Lê Văn Đời, 247n36

Li, Tania Murray, 16; on civility, 64

Liên Trì Buddhist pagoda, 157, 180

loneliness: of eating along, 97, 242n13; in privatization, 95

Long, Teacher (pseudonymous interviewee), 189–97, 202; ancestral home of, 192; eviction of, 189; family of, 189–91; language of justice, 189, 196; language of rights, 192–97; language of sentiment, 189, 191, 192; legal appeals by, 195; moral claims of, 192; qualitative/quantitative idioms of, 193–97; on Thủ Thiêm, 189–92; on Vietnamese nation, 195

Lồng, Uncle (pseudonymous interviewee), 108–10

Malleret, Louis, 233n16

Mamdani, Mahmood, 214, 216
market economy, Vietnamese, 2; in Ho Chi Minh City, 47; inequalities in, 6; narratives of modernity in, 237n88; Phú Mỹ Hưng in, 45–46; socialist orientation of, 88, 164, 167
Marx, Karl: on private property, 221
Mattei, Ugo, 215
McGee, Terry, 246n20
media, Vietnamese: state-run, 100
megaprojects, urban: in Asian cities, 8, 10, 168
Mekong Delta, water-based commerce of, 128
Mê Linh traffic circle (District One), 171
middle class, Asian: political side of, 241n5
middle class, Chinese: exclusionary practices of, 91
middle class, Vietnamese: exclusionary practices of, 91–92; of Ho Chi Minh City, 242n10
identity performance of, 241n6; investing by, 175; invocation of land law, 212; Phú Mỹ Hưng residents, 93; role in political change, 241n5
military posts, 126, 246n15; glaci of, 246n14
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Vietnam), 211
Montmayeur, Father M., 131
Mỹ An (Beautiful Peace) development, 41; cost of units in, 94
Mỹ Cánh (Beautiful View) development, 41
Mỹ Đức apartment building, 43
Mỹ Khánh I-IV apartment buildings, 41
Mỹ Phát apartment building (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 43
Mỹ Phúc apartment building (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 43
Mỹ Toàn development (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 41
Nader, Laura, 215
Nam, Uncle (pseudonymous interviewee), 102–5; Buddhism of, 103, 104; on freedom, 105
Nam Kỳ Lục Tỉnh (Six Southern Provinces), 191
nationalism, twentieth-century: liberal subjectivities of, 113
nationalism, Vietnamese: in development, 56; in wasteland narratives, 35
National Liberation Front (NLF), 144
nation-building, Vietnamese: construction and, 105–6; Ting’s, 55
Navaro-Yashin, Yael, 106
neoliberalism, Vietnamese, 6, 169; as new freedom, 166; public-private partnerships in, 174
Nepal, housing in, 246n22
new freedom (tân tự do), 166
newspapers, Vietnamese: autonomy of, 250n10; phong sự reporting style of, 158
new towns, Asian, 112, 230n7
Ngọc (pseudonymous interviewee), 64–70; attitudes about civility, 67–70; childhood of, 65; domestic violence against, 65, 66–67; on gender dynamics, 82; gendered exploitation of, 65–66; on government officials, 70, 239n23; husband of, 66–67, 239n20; occupations of, 64–65, 66, 239n16; use of civility, 70, 82
Ngô Đình Diệm: assassination of, 144; planning under, 135, 137, 139, 140, 248n45; Thủ Thiêm under, 248n45; wasteland narratives under, 232n14. See also Republic of Vietnam
Nguyễn Đình Đầu, 134; From Saigon to Ho Chi Minh City, 34–35
Nguyễn Huệ Street, 198
Nguyễn Hữu Cảnh, 245n11
Nguyễn Khắc Thành, Father Gabriel, 131
Nguyễn Mại, 54
Nguyễn Phúc Ánh, fortifications of, 126
Nguyễn Phước Nguyên, tax station of, 245n11
Nguyễn Tân Dũng, 211; profiteering by, 168
Nguyễn Văn Huấn, 54
Nguyễn Văn Kích, 236n55; on foreign business practices, 236n55; memoir of Phú Mỹ Hưng, 45–46, 47–48
Nguyễn Văn Linh, 56; Đổi Mới under, 23; renovation policies of, 56
Nguyễn Văn Linh Boulevard (Nguyễn Văn Linh Parkway), 23, 24, 30, 31, 38, 41, 42, 45, 56, 78; buildings along, 38, 41; Porsche dealership on, 92
Nguyễn Văn Thiệu, Land to the Tiller program of, 198, 258n26
Nguyễn Văn XX, 190
Nhà Bè rural district, 8, 47; development of, 54; redistricting of, 37, 173
nhà ổ chuột (slums), 129
Nhà Rồng “dragon house” wharf, 134
Nhieu Lộc-Thị Nghè Canal, cleanup of, 255n59
Ông Ên temple, 134
origin stories, Vietnamese, 234n29. See also wasteland narratives, Vietnamese
outer-city districts (huyện ngoại thành), 37; denigration of, 44, 117, 234n10, 244n2; real estate values of, 174; transformation into inner-city, 173, 254n52
Paracels Islands (contested), 158
Pasqual (Tagalog man), home of, 126, 128
INDEX 281
Phan Châu Đằng, 52, 236055; economic leadership of, 49; Tân Thuận EPZ directorship, 50
Phan Văn Khải, urban development under, 170, 171
Phaolô Huỳnh Ngọc Tiên, Father, 131
Phở Bà Cố (noodle shop), 97, 100
Phở Hùng (noodle shop), 28
phong thủy (feng shui), for apartments, 75–76
Phù Gia gated community, 41, 43
Phủ Mỹ Hưng, pre-development, 30; agriculture at, 44; evictions from, 44
Phủ Mỹ Hưng Corporation: civilized professionals of, 69–70, 84; land-use fee dispute, 105, 217; narrative of, 29, 31–32, 33–34; respect for, 32; slogan of, 60, 77, 23712; Ting office building of, 53; wasteland narrative of, 33
Phủ Mỹ Hưng New Urban Zone, 2, 9, 43; aesthetics of, 235n38; allegorical narrative of, 56; architecture of, 38; aspirational narratives of, 31, 32, 36, 55; atomization in, 112; before/after narratives of, 29; civility in, 9, 14, 19, 20, 57, 58–85, 217; civilization of, 21, 59; class exclusion in, 21, 72, 90, 91, 113; cleanliness of, 77, 79, 81, 84, 90, 104; community in, 95, 99–101, 103; concept of property in, 20; construction in, 38, 41; Consumer Service Center, 96; corporate narrative of, 29, 31–32, 33–34; design for, 8, 41; Đổi Mới in, 46, 56; education level in, 72; entrances into, 23, 24; evictions for, 44; experimental nature of, 51; as expression of future, 107, 110; first phases of, 51–52; gendered spaces of, 81, 82; growth around, 37; housing of, 38, 39–40, 41–43, 73, 74–76, 94, 96; human ingenuity in, 47; ideological resistance to, 48; inequality of, 64; infrastructure of, 38; insulation from politics in, 77; lake of, 43, 86, 95; luxury in, 5, 59; map of, 3, 32; in market economy, 45–46; marketing theme for, 79; master plan of, 44, 104; modernity of, 59; movement from Thủ Thiêm to, 12, 13; Mỹ Kim section of, 74; national importance of, 29–30; neoliberalism of, 19; orderliness in, 81, 90; origin story of, 31; polite language in, 79; political aspects of, 45–46, 49, 50, 84; political aspiration in, 235n38; population of, 37, 38, 92; Porsche dealership in, 92; pride in, 29; private spaces of, 80, 99, 100; profitability of, 103; profit-seeking aspect of, 45; property values in, 94; public spaces of, 89, 97, 101; restaurants of, 72, 92, 99; rule-orientation of, 103, 104, 110; safety of, 72, 79, 94, 103; security infrastructure of, 96; segregation of, 64; self and society in, 102–5; service workers of, 93; shuttle service, 71–72; Singapore and, 59, 73; size of, 37; social consciousness in, 81; social equity in, 45; socialism of, 46; spatial exclusion in, 84; spatial organization on, 81; student project on, 27–39, 43, 45; success of, 52, 253n43; symbolism of, 48; Taiwanese developers of, 30–31, 50; and Thủ Thiêm, 5; tranquility of, 70; transformative aspects of, 9; triumphalist narratives of, 48; and Vietnamese identity, 110; in Vietnam's postwar history, 45–52; villas, 39, 40, 41–42; wards surrounding, 38; wasteland narratives of, 28, 29, 34, 36, 44, 45, 50
Phủ Mỹ Hưng residents: aspirational lifestyles of, 93; collectivity among, 90, 99–100; consciousness (ý thức) of, 14, 57, 85, 87–97, 110–11, 113, 217, 221; conspicuous consumption by, 92, 242n11; conversation among, 85, 99–101, 105, 106, 113, 216, 243n18; elite, 52, 93; ethnographic interviews with, 12, 14; experience of modernity, 18; faith in văn minh, 82; on Lawrence S. Ting, 104; middle-class, 93; morning exercises of, 86–87, 92, 93–94, 99, 113; on new urban zones, 218; political discussions among, 85, 216; privatized lifestyles of, 91; property owners, 93; reinforcement of exclusion, 21; responsibility among, 90; rights of, 19, 22; self-awareness of, 97, 102–5; self-conceptions of, 18–19, 97, 102–5; self-discipline of, 103; self-legitimization of, 111; single women, 64–73; social engagement of, 91, 95; wealth of, 92, 241n9; women, 65–81, 103–4
Phủ Mỹ suspension bridge, 1–2, 2, 12; binding role of, 13; of Đổi Mới, 47; everyday, 105–11; Phú Mỹ Hưng’s insulation from, 77; repression in, 231n12
Poetry, Vietnamese, 108–10; multiple meanings in, 109, 110
police, Vietnamese: lack of civility, 69–70
Pierpz, Dennis, 177
political publishing house, study of development, 218–19
politics, Vietnamese: conversations concerning, 85, 105, 106, 216; of Đổi Mới, 47; everyday, 105–11; Phú Mỹ Hưng’s insulation from, 77; repression in, 231n12
political aspect of, 45–46, 49, 50, 84; political aspiration in, 235n38; population of, 37, 38, 92; Porsche dealership in, 92; pride in, 29; private spaces of, 80, 99, 100; profitability of, 103; profit-seeking aspect of, 45; property values in, 94; public spaces of, 89, 97, 101; restaurants of, 72, 92, 99; rule-orientation of, 103, 104, 110; safety of, 72, 79, 94, 103; security infrastructure of, 96; segregation of, 64; self and society in, 102–5; service workers of, 93; shuttle service, 71–72; Singapore and, 59, 73; size of, 37; social consciousness in, 81; social equity in, 45; socialism of, 46; spatial exclusion in, 84; spatial organization on, 81; student project on, 27–39, 43, 45; success of, 52, 253n43; symbolism of, 48; Taiwanese developers of, 30–31, 50; and Thủ Thiêm, 5; tranquility of, 70; transformative aspects of, 9; triumphalist narratives of, 48; and Vietnamese identity, 110; in Vietnam’s postwar history, 45–52; villas, 39, 40, 41–42; wards surrounding, 38; wasteland narratives of, 28, 29, 34, 36, 44, 45, 50
Phủ Mỹ Hưng residents: aspirational lifestyles of, 93; collectivity among, 90, 99–100; consciousness (ý thức) of, 14, 57, 85, 87–97, 110–11, 113, 217, 221; conspicuous consumption by, 92, 242n11; conversation among, 85, 99–101, 105, 106, 113, 216, 243n18; elite, 52, 93; ethnographic interviews with, 12, 14; experience of modernity, 18; faith in văn minh, 82; on Lawrence S. Ting, 104; middle-class, 93; morning exercises of, 86–87, 92, 93–94, 99, 113; on new urban zones, 218; political discussions among, 85, 216; privatized lifestyles of, 91; property owners, 93; reinforcement of exclusion, 21; responsibility among, 90; rights of, 19, 22; self-awareness of, 97, 102–5; self-conceptions of, 18–19, 97, 102–5; self-discipline of, 103; self-legitimization of, 111; single women, 64–73; social engagement of, 91, 95; and Thủ Thiêm residents, 18; wealth of, 92, 241n9; women, 65–81, 103–4
Phủ Mỹ suspension bridge, 1–2, 2, 12; binding role of, 13; off-ramps from, 23; social life on, 231n21; symbolism of, 17
privatization: collective responsibility for, 45; exclusion in, 90; land grabs in, 167; loneliness in, 95; and social responsibility, 14 production, destructive, 5 property, Vietnamese: emergent notions of, 11; “fuzzy,” 175, 255n61; private, 51, 217–22; relations of, 11–12 property rights, hegemony/counterhegemony in, 17 property rights, Vietnamese: in dense populations, 15; emergence of, 45; exclusion in, 19–20, 220, 260n30; instability of, 253n42; justice through, 16; liberalization of, 219; official control of, 251n31; petitions concerning, 211, 260n21; reemergence of, 16; regularization of, 175; stability through, 255n62; Thủ Thiêm residents on, 19 property values: decline in 2008, 173–76; and language of rights, 19; in Phú Mỹ Hưng New Urban Zone, 94; in Thủ Thiêm, 176, 234n23; in urban development, 19, 166; urban/rural, 173–74. See also compensation (Thủ Thiêm) public assembly, Vietnamese: surveillance of, 4 public space, Vietnamese: auto-urbanization (đô thị hóa tự phát) of, 165, 252n25; corporate presence in, 165, 251n23; figure-ground convention of, 165; in Ho Chi Minh City, 15; of Phú Mỹ Hưng, 89, 97, 101; privatized, 87–97; social processes of, 87 public sphere: Habermas’s concept of, 113, 240n11; individual self in, 89; Vietnamese commitment to, 221 Quảng Ngãi Province, 88, 197 quê hương (homeland): star fruit symbol of, 258n13; in Vietnamese identity, 187, 192 Quinton, Bishop Victor Carolus, 131 Quốc, Uncle (pseudonymous interviewee), 107–10 Rancière, Jacques: on “Rights of Man,” 215–16 real estate speculation, 2, 16; among Vietnam elites, 174; evictions following, 201; reform of, 23, 46. See also land accumulation Republic of Vietnam: American presence in, 137; Directorate of Reconstruction and Urban Planning, 148; social technologies of, 144; unimplemented plans of, 148–49, 249n68; urban development plans for, 138, 140–42, 141, 143; U.S. assistance to, 151. See also Ngô Đình Diệm resistance: civility in, 20, 63; to dispossession, 8; to evictions, 16, 188, 250n4; to land accumulation, 7; to Phú Mỹ Hưng, 48; in postwar Vietnam, 251n15; rightful, 160; to undercompensation, 258n16; to urban development, 51 responsibility, collective: and individual rights, 98, 102–3; for privatization, 45 revolution (cách mạng), discourse of, 75 rights: built on injustice, 221; community as, 218; post-Holocaust, 215; proliferation of discourse on, 215–16 rights, individual: and collective responsibility, 98, 102–3; and community rights, 218, 220 rights, language of: across class boundaries, 214; consenses in, 216; and land commodification, 7; and land use rights, 5; and property values, 19; reconciliation in, 216 rights, Vietnamese: civility (văn minh) and, 63, 217–22; consciousness of, 22; in demolition process, 187; emergence of claims for, 231n17; foundational violence in, 15; legal basis for, 214; market-based, 216; monetary expression of, 187; in new urban zones, 218; official complaints concerning, 211, 260n21; of powerless people, 221–22; of privileged people, 221–22; problems with, 213–15; profitability and, 220. See also land use rights; property rights discourse, Vietnamese: and language of petitions, 260n21; property rights in, 219; as tautology, 215–17; as void, 215–17 Rising from the Swamps (Vươn lên từ đầm lầy, 2005), 29, 32 Riverside Residences (Phú Mỹ Hưng), 42–43 riverside settlements, negative stereotypes of, 245n5 rubble, capitalistic, 5–6 rubble (Ho Chi Minh City), 13; as sign of times, 5, 7; from Thủ Thiêm, 10, 12, 114, 131, 158, 179, 202, 216 rural areas, Vietnamese: cultural richness of, 35, 233n18; devaluation of, 234n30 sacrifice (hi sinh): of Thủ Thiêm residents, 18, 19, 158, 160, 192; unequal distribution of, 162; for urban development, 15 Sadeco (Saigon Development Corporation), 44, 234n31 Saigon: alleyways of, 72; American map of, 121, 122; Brink Hotel bombing (1964), 144; density of, 147; development plans for, 135,
Index

social life (Ho Chi Minh City), reconstruction of, 4
social order, segmentary, 248n58
social order, Vietnamese, fantasies of, 60
society, Vietnamese: civilizing discourse in, 83–84; collective good in, 102–5; efficiency in, 89; expression of anger in, 106; patrilineal, 187; power structures of, 111; self-discipline in, 103, 105; self-improvement in, 89
Souquet, Olivier, 164
Southeast Asia, land conversions in, 254n53
space: for emergent consciousness, 101–2; poetic nature of, 187; and social consciousness, 81; as sociopolitical commentary, 21
spatial order, role of civility in, 82
Spratly Islands (contested), 158
Starlight Bridge (Cầu Ánh Sao), 30, 31, 86, 88
Stoler, Ann, 5
storytelling, Vietnamese, 34. See also wasteland narratives
Study of Building EPZs in HCMC (1988), 50
Tai Chi, 86
Taiwan, Kuomintang (KMT) government, 49–50, 52. See also urban developers, Taiwanese
“The Tale of Kiều” (poem), 239n19
tale-types, folklorist, 34, 232n12
Tâm, Mr. (pseudonymous interviewee): ancestors of, 197–98, 200; before-and-after videos of, 207–8, 209; demolished home of, 183–84, 184, 185, 188, 198, 200, 207–8; on demolition, 199–200; education of, 198; eviction of, 197–200; on injustice, 197–200; on land values, 200; occupation of, 199; siblings of, 198, 199, 200; on Thủ Thiêm projects, 199; tube home of, 184–85, 197, 207–8; World Trade Center photo of, 207–8
Tân Phú Ward, wet market of, 100
Tân Thuận Export Processing Zone (EPZ), 23, 229n6; evictions for, 44; Ting’s role in, 52
Tân Thuận Export Processing Zone Joint Venture: Dương’s directorship of, 50; establishment of, 50–51. See also Industrial Promotion Company (IPC)
Taylor, Philip, 35, 233n17, 237n81
Tây Sơn wars, 126
Thanh Bình leper colony, 245n3
Thạnh Mỹ Lợi resettlement area, 205, 206–7
Thảo Cầu (military post), 126
Thị Nghè Bridge, 191
Thrifing Prosperity (Hưng Vượng), 41
Thảo Câu (military post), 126
Thạnh Mỹ Lợi resettlement area, 205, 206–7
Thủ Thiêm, 2, 119, 145; acidic water of, 191; agriculture of, 125, 128, 190; alluvial silt of, 130; American map of, 121, 122; built environment of, 122, 134, 146, 146; Cao Định Của temple of, 133; cattle grazing on, 157; Cây Bàng Road, 154; Chinese pirates at, 131; Coffyn plan for, 135, 137; community halls (đinh) of, 132, 133, 134, 157, 247n36; conceptual disregard for, 122; desirability for development, 51; development history of, 21; distorted impressions of, 118–19, 245n5; Doxiadis Plan for, 141, 141–42, 144, 146, 148; emptiness discourse on, 118, 119, 122, 124–25, 144, 146–48, 151, 157, 245n7; etymology of, 130; fishing at, 191; flooding of, 190; fortifications at, 126; during French colonial era, 21; French map of, 119, 120; French-speaking Vietnamese of, 183; as "golden land" (đất vàng), 253n43; historical views of, 125–26, 127, 128–31; institutions of, 131–34; investment brochure for, 171–72, 172; Khmers at, 190; land clearance in, 10, 155, 131–34; investment brochure for, 171–72, 176, 179–80, 202; landscape of, 128, 129; leper colony of, 245n13; linear settlements of, 125, 130; lived environment of, 129, 144; Lương định Cửa Street, 154, 157; maps of, 3, 119, 120–21, 122, 123–24, 127, 135, 136; market of, 122, 245n9; movement from Phú Mỹ Hưng of, 144, 145, 146, 148; natural resources of, 129–30; under Ngô Đình Diệm, 149, 248n45; in Nguyen dynasty, 122; under Nguyễn Hữu Cảnh, 245n11; in nineteenth century, 125–26, 127, 128–30, 129, 134; nostalgia for, 186; origins of, 118, 190; pagodas of, 132–33, 157, 180; parish (giáo xứ) of, 131, 258n25; People’s Committees of, 122, 124; and Phú Mỹ Hưng, 14; in Phước Long District, 245n11; population of, 118, 122–24, 125, 128, 130; property boundaries of, 144, 145; raising of land surface, 254n49; razing of, 13, 135, 156; records for, 119, 122; redistricting of, 173, 176; religious artifacts of, 134; religious institutions of, 131–34, 247n34; representational practices for, 119, 122; riverine life of, 128–30; "rubble café," 202, 203; rubble from, 10, 12, 114, 131, 158, 179, 202; 216; settler lifestyle in, 191; shipping industry of, 134; soils of, 151; temples of, 133; transport networks of, 129; urban filaments of, 144; village morphology of, 21; in wasteland narratives, 190; waterways of, 125, 129, 142; in Wurster Plan, 149, 149–52. See also demolition; displacement; eviction; urban development
Thủ Thiêm bridge, 180
Thủ Thiêm church, 131–33, 154; building of, 131; Sunday masses at, 132, 180, 247n30
Thủ Thiêm ferry, 118, 130, 155, 244n3; discontinuation of, 154, 182
Thủ Thiêm Investment and Construction Authority (ICA), 148, 176–79, 236n62; on DeSo plan, 164; disagreement with residents, 178–79; interest on loans, 181; land reclamation under, 178; mandate of, 177, 178; on Sasaki plan, 162–63; umbrella function of, 177
Thủ Thiêm New Urban Zone (Khu đô thị mới Thủ Thiêm): agencies directing, 177; contested development of, 21; costs of, 158–61; design competition for, 161; District Two authorities on, 155; economic logic of, 179; ecological strategy for, 161; emulation of Phú Mỹ Hưng, 14; financing of infrastructure, 176; goals for, 10, 11; infill for, 151, 152, 155, 181; legal dynamics of, 189; planning for, 118, 135–52; promises of, 158–61; reciprocal obligation for, 160; socialist market economy in, 164; transformative aspects of, 187; See also urban development
Thủ Thiêm People’s Committee, 154
Thủ Thiêm project zone: aesthetic beauty in, 257n16; disorder at, 180–81; religious structures of, 132–33; scavengers on, 179–80; Thủ Thiêm ICAs’ authority over, 177–78
Thủ Thiêm residents: anger over evictions, 14, 21, 158–60, 161, 179, 202, 207; belief in national unity, 160; as city people (dân thành phố), 173; conception of property rights, 19; diet of, 191, 198; disagreements with Thủ Thiêm ICA, 178–79; dossiers of, 118, 180, 250nn5–6; in Doxiadis Plan, 151–52; ethnographic interviews with, 12, 14; experience of modernity, 18; on fairness, 186; importance of compensation for, 202, 204–7; improved lifestyle for, 204–5; lived experiences of, 158; livelihoods of, 130, 134; marginalized, 118; meetings with project authorities,
urban development, master-planned:
anthropological scholarship on, 111–12; city residents on, 15; dispossessed Vietnamese on, 169; evictions in, 16; global, 23; in Kunming, 91; new ideas through, 4; for Saigon, 148; security for, 97; urban fear and, 242n16; urban reality of, 6
urban development, Vietnamese: cohesiveness in, 144; colonial plans for, 128, 135, 136, 138; corruption in, 169; Đổi Mới in, 166; increase in, 213–14; market-based solutions in, 165; nationalist history of, 56; neoliberalism in, 19, 166; property value in, 19, 166; of Republic of Vietnam, 138, 140–42, 141, 142, 143, 148–52; sacrifice for, 15; for Saigon, 135, 136, 138, 140–42, 141, 143, 148–52, 149; unimplemented plans, 148–49, 249n68
—Ho Chi Minh City: allegories of, 55–57; commercial, 4; design principles for, 10; dystopian consequences of, 2; failures in, 251n26; nation-building in, 105; negative forces affecting, 16–17; outside observers of, 21; as political project, 21, 48; popular support for, 176; privatized, 82; public space in, 15; resistance to, 51; spectacle of, 4, 6; state stewardship of, 231n20; văn minh in, 238n2—Thủ Thiêm, 122; corruption in, 169; in Doxiadis Plan, 141, 141–42; past plans for, 135, 137–44, 146–52, 171–73; postwar context for, 166–76; residents’ support for, 14, 21–22, 160, 169; sustainable, 130.

See also Phú Mỹ Hưng New Urban Zone; Thủ Thiêm New Urban Zone
urban governance: civility as, 60, 84; new forms of, 230n8; state role in, 22
urbanism: aquatic, 246n20; of Doxiadis Plan, 142, 144; French colonial, 245n15; Thủ Thiêm’s, 129–30
urbanization: cost-benefit analysis of, 218–19; spontaneous (đô thị hóa tự phát), 104; Thủ Thiêm residents on, 173
urban processes (Ho Chi Minh City), interconnectedness of, 7
urban zones, new (khu đô thị mới), 8–9, 229n6; civilization in, 218; demolition for, 11, 153; exclusion in, 113; foreign capital in, 170; land expropriation for, 213; privacy/community tension in, 113; renovation and, 170; rights in, 218; socialist planning in, 170; social processes of, 11; as societal model, 218; state sovereignty and, 242n12
INDEX 287

Van Leeuwen, Lizzie, 91

văn minh, as term of disparagement, 238n11. See also civility, Vietnamese

Verdery, Katherine, 46–47

Việt, Uncle (pseudonymous interviewee):
career of, 98; conversation group of, 99–101; exercise of consciousness, 97–102; family of, 100; on urbanization, 107

Việt Công, 88; subversive space of, 144

Vietnam: agrarian pioneers of, 35–36; manifest destiny of, 36; Marxist-Leninist experiment in, 6; urban imaginaries of, 245n5; U.S. intervention in, 21; waterways of, 129. See also Republic of Vietnam

Vietnam, colonial, 2; destruction in, 7; nostalgia for, 256n1; Phú Mỹ Hưng residents on, 95; Reform Movement (1900s), 237n1; Saigon in, 21, 126, 135, 244n3; urban development in, 128, 135, 136, 138; urban poor of, 244n3

Vietnam, postwar: civic responsibility in, 11; contested islands of, 158; corruption in, 69–70, 103; future orientation of, 6–7, 107; global integration of, 167; legitimacy crisis in, 48, 235n46; market reforms in, 153; nationalization of industry, 235n45; open door (mở cửa) period of, 46, 48, 50; Phú Mỹ Hưng’s place in, 45–52; postreform era of, 4; resistance in, 251n15; rights-bearing subjects of, 219; socialism in, 2, 7; subsidy period (thời bao cấp), 73

Vietnam, southern: ethnography of, 35. See also Republic of Vietnam

Vietnamese Constitution, 193, 195

Vietnamese language, wordplay in, 108–10, 111, 243n28

Vietnamese people (người Việt), 90; community of belonging, 160, 251n14; hardships of, 217; nationalist solidarity of, 160; new rich, 92, 241n8; protests of unfairness, 215. See also elites, Vietnamese; middle class, Vietnamese

Vietnamization (U.S. policy), 150–51

Vietnam War: changing American attitudes on, 150; destruction in, 7

Vinh City: evictions (giải tỏa) in, 251n113, 259n6; rights claims in, 231n17

violence, infrastructural, 22

Võ Trần Chí, 54

Võ Văn Kiệt, 170; approval of Phú Mỹ Hưng, 24; Đổi Mới under, 23, 170; economic policies of, 48; as fence breaker, 252n37; and Friday Group, 49; and new urban zones, 170–71; popularity of, 181; and Thủ Thiêm New Urban Zone, 172–73

Võ Văn Kiệt Parkway, 24

Vũ Huy Hoàng case, corruption in, 168

Vũ Trọng Phụng, 83; on civility, 62, 83, 238n8; Dumb Luck, 83, 238n8, 239n21

Waibel, Michael, 113

wasteland (đất hoang): courage in clearing 52; development of Phú Mỹ Hưng from, 28-29, 33, 56, 218; development of Saigon South from, 32; following Thủ Thiêm demolition, 179–80; into golden land, 20, 52; precolonial concepts of, 20; Pudong area of Shanghai as, 245n5; as root metaphor, 323n3; Thủ Thiêm as, 21, 134–35, 154, 171; urban civility from, 30. See also rubble

wasteland narratives, Vietnamese, 34–36, 239n14; civilization in, 48, 233n17; founding ancestors in, 52; nationalism in, 35; under Ngô Đình Diệm, 232n14; of Phú Mỹ Hưng, 28, 29, 34, 36, 44, 45, 50; Phú Mỹ Hưng Corporation’s, 33; plots of, 236n64; settler tropes in, 190–91, 257n8; symbols of, 232n3; Thủ Thiêm in, 190

wenming (civility), Chinese, 60, 238n4

White, John: description of Thủ Thiêm, 125–26, 128–30, 246n13

Wilcox, Wynn, 233n14

wordplay (chơi chữ), 108–10, 111; multiple meanings in, 109, 253n28

Wright, Guy: death of, 153; on development of Thủ Thiêm, 152; on Saigon development, 149

Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons (firm), 150

Wurster, William W., 249n70

Wurster Plan (1972), 149, 149–52; adaptability in, 150–51; cost of, 151; gradualist approach of, 150; land expropriation in, 151; on land use, 151; population density recommendations, 151; raising of Thủ Thiêm surface in, 254n49; use of Doxiadis Plan, 150

Xóm-tàu-ô (hamlets of the black junks), 130

Zhang, Li, 19, 60, 251n19; on master planning, 91; on spatialization of class, 82

Zinoman, Peter: on Vũ Trọng Phụng, 62, 238n8

zoning, technologies of, 229n6
Luxury and Rubble is the tale of two cities in Ho Chi Minh City. It is the story of two planned, mixed-use residential and commercial developments that are changing the face of Vietnam’s largest city. Since the early 1990s, such developments have been steadily reorganizing urban landscapes across the country. For many Vietnamese, they are a symbol of the country’s emergence into global modernity and of post-socialist economic reforms. However, they are also sites of great contestation, sparking land disputes and controversies over how to compensate evicted residents. In this penetrating ethnography, Erik Harms vividly portrays the human costs of urban reorganization as he explores the complex and sometimes contradictory experiences of individuals grappling with the forces of privatization in a socialist country.

“With captivating ethnography and trenchant analysis, Erik Harms delves deeply into two communities created and destroyed by redevelopment in contemporary Ho Chi Minh City. He poignantly shows how master plans defining personhood in terms of property rights empower some to live in luxury, while leaving others in the rubble of dispossession.” ANN MARIE LESHKOWICH, author of Essential Trade: Vietnamese Women in a Changing Marketplace

“Beautifully written. . . . A remarkable achievement in urban studies and a must-read for anyone interested in changing spatial form, sociality, rights consciousness, and class dynamics in neoliberal times.” LI ZHANG, author of In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis

“Once in a while, a book comes along and makes us rethink how cities and capitalism work. Luxury and Rubble is one of those, giving us new conceptual insights into urbanism and doing so through an intensely lived and beautifully narrated ethnography.” ANANYA ROY, editor of Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global

ERIK HARMS is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Southeast Asia Studies at Yale University and the author of Saigon’s Edge: On the Margins of Ho Chi Minh City.

A Philip E. Lilienthal Book in Asian Studies