

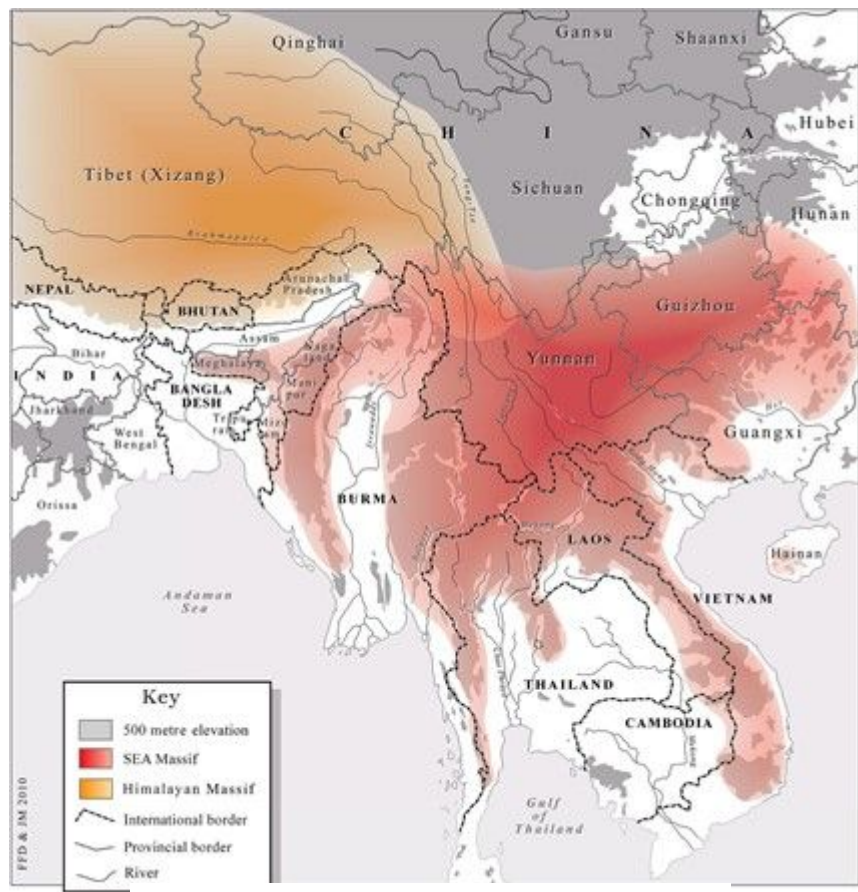


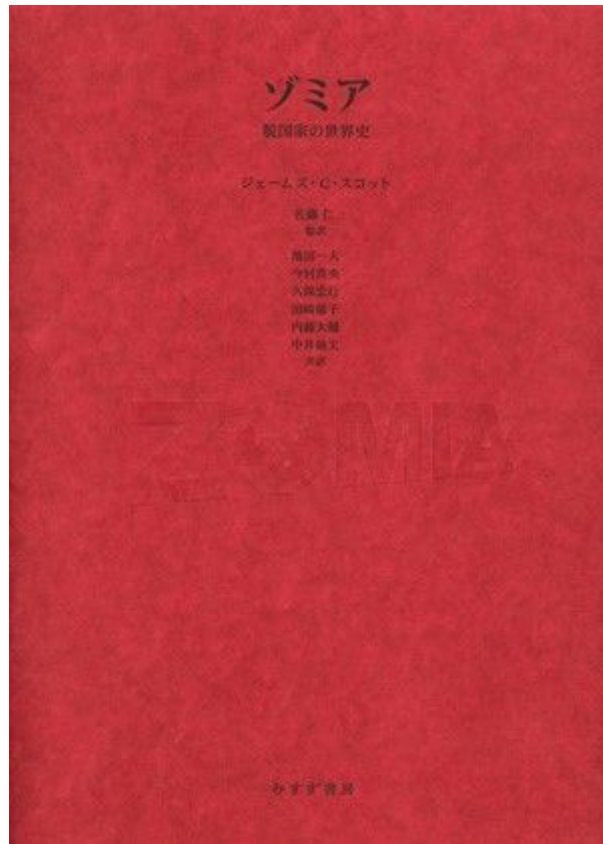
James C. Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*

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Dutch researcher Willem van Schendel criticized that traditional area studies have been premised on the idea of the nation-state and coined the term “Zomia” to refer to the vast area crossing over Southeast Asia including Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, Southern China, and parts of India. In *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*, an American political scientist and anthropologist James C. Scott argues that ethnic minority groups who reside in Zomia (hill peoples) are not the weak that have been driven away to marginal areas, but are in fact anarchists who have deliberately practiced avoidance from nation-states strategizing governance and exploitation.

The book has been appraised for these arguments that break new ground in Southeast Asian Studies. Although many have criticized that some of these claims are merely hypothetical, Scott’s argument nonetheless remains fascinating because he has, with his outstanding imagination and insight, compiled the “little narratives” of the hill peoples in contrast to the “grant narratives” told by nation-states, and thus succeeds in revitalizing our historical understanding premised on the idea of the nation-state and revealing a new image of hill peoples as anarchists.





Source:

- James C. Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009)