

**IN THE MID-1980S**, a radio program with a compelling spiritual message was accidentally received by listeners in Vietnam's remote northern highlands. The Protestant evangelical communication had been created in the Hmong language by the Far East Broadcasting Company specifically for war refugees in Laos. The Vietnamese Hmong related the content to their traditional expectation of salvation by a Hmong messiah-king who would lead them out of subjugation, and they appropriated the evangelical message for themselves.

Tâm T. T. Ngô reveals the complex politics of religion and ethnic relations in contemporary Vietnam—where there are some three hundred thousand followers of the New Way (Kev Cai Tshiab)—and illuminates the dynamic interplay between local and global forces, socialist and postsocialist state building, Cold War and post-Cold War antagonisms, Hmong transnationalism, and US-led evangelical expansionism.