

FLAVORS OF EMPIRE

Food and the Making of Thai America

Book Talk and Signing

Thursday, April 26, 2018
12:00 - 1:30 pm
Powell Library - East Rotunda

Books will be available for purchase
Refreshments will be served*

RSVP to <https://foodthaiamerica.eventbrite.com>

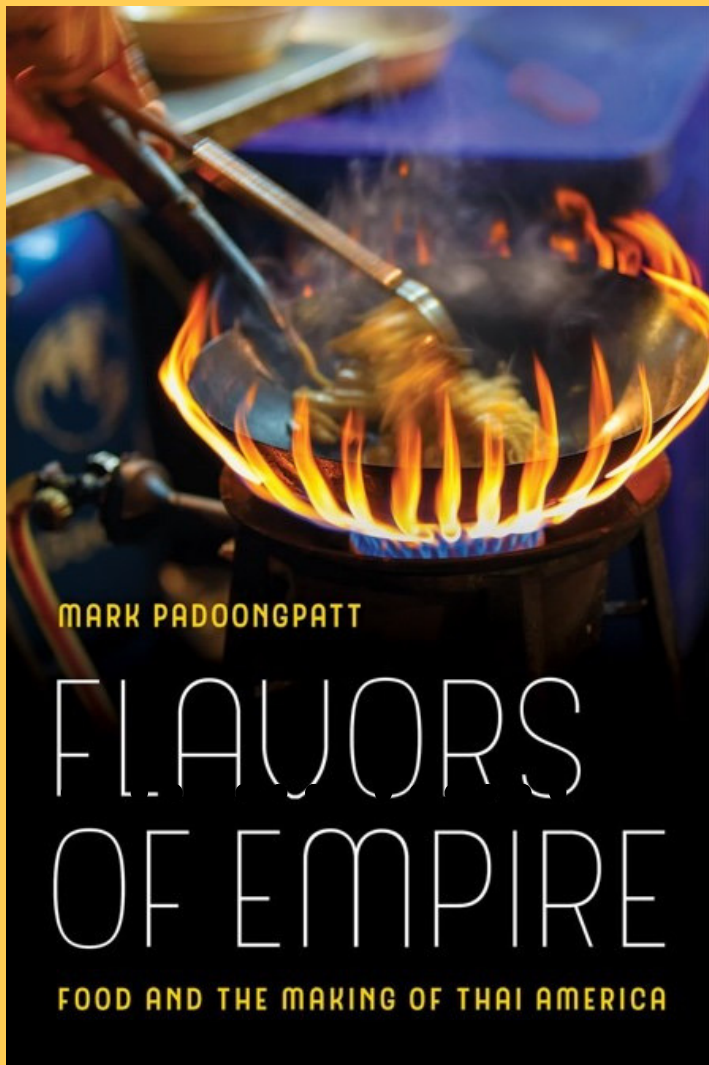
With a uniquely balanced combination of salty, sweet, sour, and spicy flavors, Thai food burst onto Los Angeles's and America's culinary scene in the 1980s.

Flavors of Empire examines the rise of Thai food and the way it shaped the racial and ethnic contours of Thai American identity and community. Full of vivid oral histories and new archival material, this book explores the factors that made foodways central to the Thai American experience.

Starting with American Cold War intervention in Thailand, Mark Padoongpatt traces how informal empire allowed

U.S. citizens to discover Thai cuisine abroad and introduce it inside the United States. When Thais arrived in Los Angeles, they reinvented and repackaged Thai food in various ways to meet the rising popularity of the cuisine in urban and suburban spaces.

Padoongpatt opens up the history and politics of Thai food for the first time, all while demonstrating how race emerges in seemingly mundane and unexpected places.



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