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The Jokowi Presidency: Indonesia's Decade of Authoritarian Revival

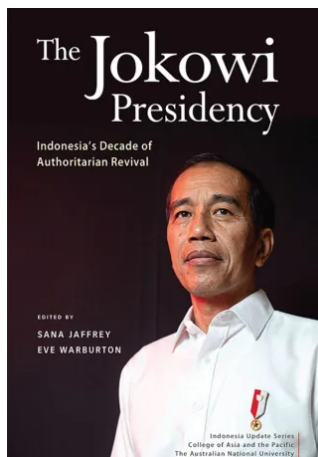
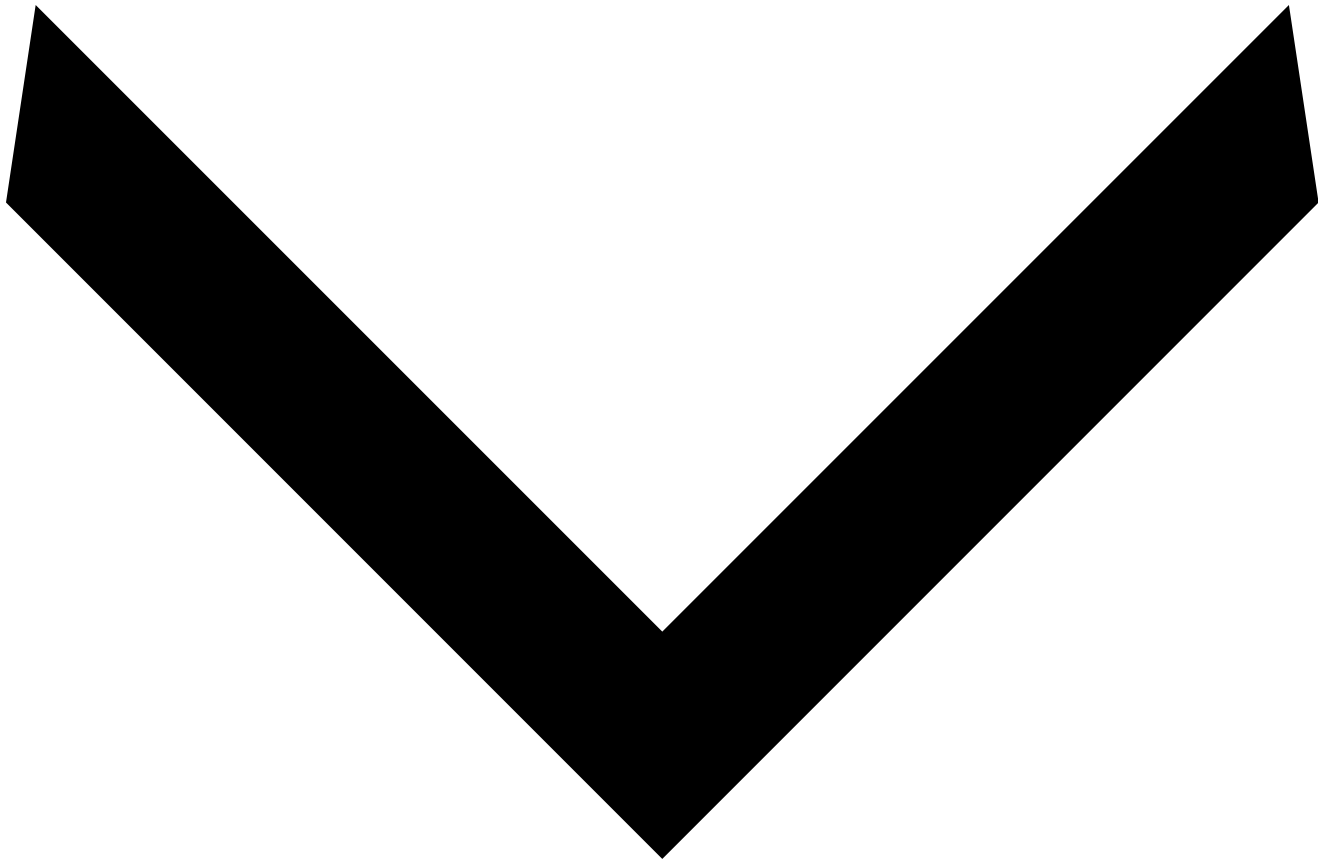
Edited by Sana Jaffrey and Eve Warburton

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In This Review

**The Jokowi Presidency:
Indonesia's Decade of
Authoritarian Revival**

*Edited by Sana Jaffrey and Eve
Warburton*

ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute, 2025, 311 pp.

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This volume of essays provides a compelling and balanced assessment of Joko Widodo's presidency in Indonesia. Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, assumed office in 2014, amid widespread economic discontent. His outsider status and promise to disrupt the country's entrenched political networks made him immediately popular. But as these essays show, his tenure had a decidedly mixed effect. Widodo's ten-year rule saw impressive

infrastructural transformation, low inflation, and popular welfare measures. But he did not fundamentally restructure the economy, and poverty reduction progressed more slowly than it had under his predecessors. Most notably, Indonesia's democracy suffered greatly. Widodo did make good on his promise to break up existing business and political networks. But he replaced them with new forms of cronyism, and his administration weakened anticorruption mechanisms. His government also cracked down on dissent and bolstered political allies while blocking many rivals from running for office. The volume thus tells a familiar and tragic story about how developing the state and the economy does not always help preserve democracy.

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