JAPANESE-TRAINED ARMIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
The **Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)** was established as an autonomous organization in 1968. It is a regional centre dedicated to the study of socio-political, security and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment. The Institute’s research programmes are the Regional Economic Studies (RES, including ASEAN and APEC), Regional Strategic and Political Studies (RSPS), and Regional Social and Cultural Studies (RSCS).

**ISEAS Publishing**, an established academic press, has issued more than 2,000 books and journals. It is the largest scholarly publisher of research about Southeast Asia from within the region. ISEAS Publishing works with many other academic and trade publishers and distributors to disseminate important research and analyses from and about Southeast Asia to the rest of the world.
Contents

Preface to Reprint Edition vii
Acknowledgements ix

1. Japanese Initiative — Southeast Asian Response 1
2. The Indian National Army 19
3. The Burma Independence Army 39
4. Peta 75
5. Volunteer Armies in Malaya, Sumatra, Indochina, Borneo and the Philippines 113
6. Revolt of the Independence Armies 146
7. The Significance of the Japanese Military Model for Southeast Asia 167

Appendices 185
Bibliography 191
Bibliographical Note 203
Glossary 207
Index 210
Preface to Reprint Edition

Many years ago I was researching the Indian National Army and its cooperation with the Imperial Japanese Army during its struggle for independence from Britain during World War II. In the process I learned that not only had the Japanese Army supported the Indian National Army but it had also fostered a far-flung series of volunteer armies in various nations of Southeast Asia, some of these units fighting for independence from colonial control. Japanese military training was thus introduced in several national armies of Southeast Asia, in a few cases superseding colonial military training. I embarked then on a study of these forces during the period 1970–72. At the same time I considered the more general framework within which these armies were fostered, the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

While some Western scholars had devised typologies for the role of the military in developing nations, considering for example the transference of military skills to civilian administration in new nations, little scholarly attention in these studies was directed to Southeast Asia. I therefore turned my attention to these Japanese-trained armies in Southeast Asian nations, units which in some cases formed the nuclei of officers corps and also political elites in postwar years. Japanese military training coupled with explosive nationalism provided a potent resource for leadership in many parts of Southeast Asia. In all Japanese-occupied areas where independence and volunteer forces were trained, an officer corps was also politicized during the war, whether as a direct or indirect result of the Japanese impact. The revolt against Japanese trainers by some leaders of these armies demonstrated the effectiveness of these forces in fostering aspirations for independence. Sukarno, Suharto, Zulkifli Lubis, Ne Win, and Aung San, among others, were products of Japanese wartime military training.
Since this study has been out of print and not superceded by later research, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies has decided to reprint it.

*Joyce Lebra, Professor Emerita*
*Boulder, Colorado*
*2009*
Acknowledgements

For support during research from 1970 through 1972 in Japan, Southeast Asia and Australia, I am indebted to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Philosophical Society, and the Australian National University. All provided fellowships for research on the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. During 1965-66 I received a Fulbright Grant to support my research in India on the Indian National Army. During the summers intervening between 1966 and 1970 I received travel support for research in Japan from the American Philosophical Society and the University of Colorado.

The individuals who have given generously of their time, encouragement and advice are too numerous to mention here. A few of those in Japan, the U.S. and Australia without whose gracious counsel and encouragement this study could not have been completed are gratefully acknowledged here: Mr. Horie Yoshitaka, Professor Oka Yoshitake, Professor Hayashi Shigeru, Dr. Tsunoda Jun, Professor Masuda Ato, Professor Ohno Torhu, Professor Ichikawa Kenjiro, Professor Ogawa Hiroaki, Colonel Imaoka Yutaka, Colonel Fujita Yutaka, General Fujiwara Iwao, Mrs. Shiraishi Aiko (nee Kurasawa), Mr. Kurokawa Nobuo, Mr. Nakamura Mitsuo, Mr. Nishihara Masashi, Mr. Nakano Keiji, Miss Hirano Midori, Admiral Tomioka Sadatoshi, General Miyamoto Shizuo, Colonel Ochiai Shigeyuki, Mr. Hirano Jiro, Mr. Fujino Yukio, Mr. Kawashima Takenobu, Mr. Takahashi Hachiro, Mr. Maruyama Shizuo, Professor Homma Shiro, Professor Itagaki Yoichi, Mr. Yamashita Masao, Mr. Kawadji Susumu, Dr. Anthony Reid, Miss Enid Bishop, Professor Yoji Akashi, Professor Lawrence Beer, and Professor Roger Paget.