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ECONOMICS	Page
The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership: Implications for Southeast Asia edited by Cassey Lee and Pritish Bhattacharya	5
The Riau Islands: Setting Sail edited by Francis E. Hutchinson and Siwage Dharma Negara	6
Inequality and Exclusion in Southeast Asia: Old Fractures, New Frontiers edited by Lee Hwok Aun and Christopher Choong	7
COVID-19 and the Structural Crises of Our Time by Lim Mah-Hui and Michael Heng Siam-Heng	8
POLITICS	
Infiltrating Society: The Thai Military's Internal Security Affairs by Puangthong Pawakapan	10
Praetorians, Profiteers or Professionals? Studies on the Militaries of Myanmar and Thailand edited by Michael J. Montesano, Terence Chong and Prajak Kongkirati	11
Flying Blind: Vietnam's Decision to Join ASEAN by Nguyen Vu Tung	12
Young Soeharto: The Making of a Soldier, 1921–1945 by David Jenkins	13
Environmental Movements and Politics of the Asian Anthropocene edited by Paul Jobin, Ming-sho Ho and Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao	14
The Forests for the Palms: Essays on Politics of Haze and the Environment in Southeast Asia by Helena Varkkey	15
Capitalism Magic Thailand: Global Modernity and the Making of Enchantment by Peter A. Jackson	16
ASEAN Centrality: An Autoethnographic Account by a Philippine Diplomat by Elizabeth Buensuceso	17



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SOCIAL ISSUES

The New Santri: Challenges to Traditional Religious Authority in Indonesia edited by Norshahril Saat and Ahmad Najib Burhani	19
From Grassroots Activism to Disinformation: Social Media in Southeast Asia edited by Aim Sinpeng and Ross Tapsell	20
Threads of the Unfolding Web: The Old Javanese Tantu Panggelaran translated by Stuart Robson	21
Patterned Splendour: Textiles Presented on Javanese Metal and Stone Sculptures; Eighth to Fifteenth Centuries by Lesley S. Pullen	22
1819 & Before: Singapore's Pasts edited by Kwa Chong Guan	23
Reaching for the Crescent: Aspirations of Singapore Islamic Studies Graduates and the Challenges by Norshahril Saat, Azhar Ibrahim and Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman	24
The Creative South: Buddhist and Hindu Art in Mediaeval Maritime Asia, vol. 1 edited by Andrea Acri and Peter Sharrock	25
The Creative South: Buddhist and Hindu Art in Mediaeval Maritime Asia, vol. 2 edited by Andrea Acri and Peter Sharrock	26
Bagan: Ancient and Living Buddhist Traditions by Elizabeth H. Moore	27
Peranakan Chinese Identities in the Globalizing Malay Archipelago by Leo Suryadinata	28





ECONOMICS



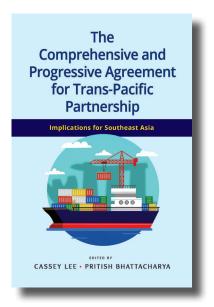


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THE COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP Implications for Southeast Asia

edited by
Cassey Lee and Pritish Bhattacharya



About the EDITORS

Cassey Lee is Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Regional Economic Studies programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Pritish Bhattacharya is Research Officer at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

About the BOOK

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a free trade agreement involving major countries across the Asia Pacific region. The trade pact, which entered into force on 30 December 2018, is considered by many to be the "gold standard", given its ambitious scope and depth.

This volume offers multi-dimensional insights into the CPTPP and its impact on Southeast Asia. It begins with broad analyses covering the historical, economic and geopolitical aspects of the CPTPP. Subsequent chapters focus on the nature and implications of three key path-breaking provisions in the trade agreement, namely investor-state dispute settlement, intellectual property rights and state-owned enterprises. The effect of the CPTPP on Southeast Asia in terms of regional production networks is also examined from the perspective of Japanese multinational enterprises. The potential economic impact of the agreement is analysed for member countries (Vietnam and Malaysia) as well as countries that aspire to join the CPTPP in the future (Indonesia and Thailand).

2021 Soft cover 978-981-4818-87-2 318 pp. PIC274 S\$42.69 (GST inclusive)* / S\$39.90 / US\$29.90





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THE RIAU ISLANDS **Setting Sail**

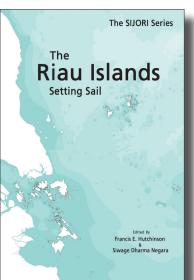
edited by Francis E. Hutchinson and Siwage Dharma Negara

About the EDITORS

Francis E. Hutchinson is Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Regional Economics Studies Programme at the ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Siwage Dharma Negara is Senior Fellow, Co-Coordinator of the Indonesia Studies Programme, and Coordinator for the

Singapore APEC Study Centre at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.



About the BOOK

To Singapore's immediate south, Indonesia's Riau Islands has a population of 2 million and a land area of 8,200 sq km scattered across some 2,000 islands. The better-known islands include: Batam, the province's economic motor; Bintan, the area's cultural heartland and site of the provincial capital, Tanjungpinang; and Karimun, a ship-building hub strategically located near the Straits of Malacca.

Leveraging on its proximity to Singapore, the Riau Islands—and particularly Batam—have been a key part of Indonesia's strategy to develop its manufacturing sector since the 1990s. In addition to generating a large number of formal sector jobs and earning foreign exchange, this reorientation opened the way for a number of far-reaching political and social developments. Key among them has been: large-scale migration from other parts of the country; the secession of the Riau Islands from the larger Riau Province; and the creation of a new provincial government.

Building on earlier work by the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute on the SIJORI Cross-Border Region, spanning Singapore, the Malaysian state of Johor, and the Riau Islands, and a second volume looking specifically at Johor, the third volume in this series explores the key challenges facing this fledgling Indonesian province.

Adopting a multidisciplinary framework, this book explores three issues: what have been the social, political, and environmental effects of the rapid economic change set in motion in the Riau Islands; to what extent can or should the province seek to reconfigure its manufacturing-based economy; and how have the decentralization reforms implemented across Indonesia affected the Riau Islands.

2021 466 pp. Soft cover 978-981-4951-05-0 S\$42.69 (GST inclusive)* / S\$39.90 / US\$29.90

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Forthcoming Title

INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA Old Fractures, New Frontiers

edited by Lee Hwok Aun and Christopher Choong

Est. pub. date: Late 2021

About the EDITORS

Lee Hwok Aun is Senior Fellow and Co-ordinator of the Malaysia Studies Programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Christopher Choong is the Deputy Director of Research at Khazanah Research Institute (KRI) and an Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity at the International Inequalities Institute, London School of Economics.

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction: Inequality and Exclusion in Southeast Asia, by Lee Hwok Aun and Christopher Choong
- 2. Cambodia's Experiences in Addressing Inequality, by Piseth Keo and Vannarith Chheang
- 3. Inequality and Exclusion in Post-Soeharto Indonesia, by Mohammad Zulfan Tadjoeddin
- 4. Inequality and Exclusion in Malaysia: Macro Trends, Labour Market Dynamics and Gender Dimensions, by Lee Hwok Aun and Christopher Choong
- 5. Inequality in Myanmar: Structural Change, Policy Outcomes and Gender Dimensions, by Ngu Wah Win, Zaw Oo, Jana Rue Glutting, Aung Htun and S. Kanayde
- 6. Structural Inequality in the Philippines: Oligarchy, Economic Transformation, and the Current Challenges to Development, *by Philip Arnold Tuaño and Jerik Cruz*
- 7. Inequality and the Social Compact in Singapore: Macro Trends vs Lived Inequalities, by Nathan Peng
- 8. Inequality in Thailand: Income, Socio-economic and Wealth Dimensions, by Vimut Vanitcharearnthum
- 9. Trends and Drivers of Inequality in Vietnam, by Trang Huyen Dang, Cuong Viet Nguyen and Tung Duc Phung
- 10. Conclusion: Old Fractures and New Frontiers, by Lee Hwok Aun and Christopher Choong

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Forthcoming Title

COVID-19 AND THE STRUCTURAL CRISES OF OUR TIME

by Lim Mah-Hui and Michael Heng Siam-Heng

Est. pub. date: Late 2021

About the AUTHORS

Lim Mah-Hui's professional background spans thirty years as an international banker and academician. He has a multi-disciplinary background in economics, sociology and finance. **Michael Heng Siam-Heng** is a retired professor of management studies.

About the BOOK

"We live in paradoxical times. Traditionally, the West has led the world in theory and practice. Yet, recent developments, from COVID-19 to the storming of the U.S. Capitol, show how lost the West has become. This loss of direction has deep roots. In his usual thoughtful and incisive fashion, Lim Mah-Hui, with his co-author Michael Heng Siam-Heng, draws out the deeper origins of our current crises and shows us a new way forward. A must read for anyone who wants to understand our strange times."

Kishore Mahbubani, the founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS, is the author of Has China Won?

"A powerful and compelling critique of neoliberal globalization and its potentially devastating, but long underestimated, consequences for financial stability, the environment, social equity and democracy. COVID-19 has laid bare these dysfunctions and stresses. But this is not a pessimistic book. The authors argue, correctly, that we may be on the cusp of another Great Transformation. The choices we make today to make markets more resilient, improve social protection, and preserve our freedoms could lay the foundations for a sustainable globalisation that works for future generations."

Donald Low, Professor of Practice in Public Policy and Director of the Institute for Emerging Market Studies, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

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POLITICS





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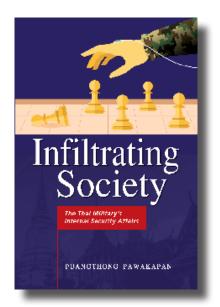
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INFILTRATING SOCIETY The Thai Military's Internal Security Affairs

by Puangthong Pawakapan

About the AUTHOR

Puangthong Pawakapan is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University.



About the BOOK

"Thai politics is driven by actors and actions of paradox such as anti-election movements for accountability or independent, partisan organizations. This lucidly written book uncovers the 'military-led civil affairs' that earn the armed forces the omnipotent role in Thai society. It enriches our understanding of the Thai military in both empirical and theoretical ways. Empirically, the book illuminates how the soldiers have been intensively involved in supposedly civic activities ranging from forest land management to poverty reduction. Such long-lasting and extensive involvement means the military could mobilize the organized mass of over 500,000 strong when necessary. Theoretically, readers will learn how an ideological discourse ("threats to national security") has been continuously redefined to serve the military's evolving political and rent-seeking missions from the Cold War era to the twenty-first century. It also traces the persistence and mutation of this highly adaptable organization, the one that knows when to roar and when to camouflage. Still waters run deep; Thai military operations run deeper and wider."

 Veerayooth Kanchoochat, Associate Professor of Political Economy, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo

"A truly monumental work about Thailand's military from the 1960s until today, this solid study focuses upon the armed forces' internal security role across Thai society, how the military has succeeded in legitimizing itself and boosting its power as a counterinsurgency force, guardian of monarchy and engine of development. The book also valuably looks at the military's establishment of mass organizations beginning during the Cold War and mobilization of royalists since 2006. The book thus illustrates how the military has been able to enhance and sustain its overwhelming influence and is thus a valuable study for anyone wanting to understand key power-brokers in Thailand."

— Dr Paul Chambers, Center of ASEAN Community Studies, Naresuan University, Thailand.

2020 Soft cover 978-981-4881-71-5

182 pp. BM596 S\$31.99 (GST inclusive)* / S\$29.90 / US\$24.90



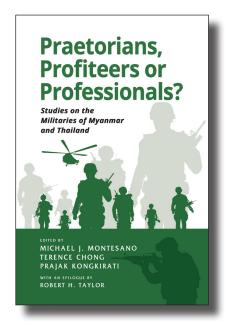


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PRAETORIANS, PROFITEERS OR PROFESSIONALS? Studies on the Militaries of Myanmar and Thailand

edited by
Michael J. Montesano, Terence Chong
and Prajak Kongkirati



About the EDITORS

Michael J. Montesano is the Coordinator of the Thailand Studies Programme at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Terence Chong is Deputy Director and Senior Fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Prajak Kongkirati is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok.

About the BOOK

Praetorians, Profiteers or Professionals? contributes to the ongoing renaissance in scholarship on Southeast Asia's armed forces and their political, social and economic roles. This renaissance comes in an era in which the states of the region, and the societies and economies that they govern, have grown complex beyond all recognition. Nevertheless, understanding those states' armies remains crucial.

Emphasizing the ideologies and economic activities of the militaries of two large Mainland Southeast Asian neighbours, this volume transcends clichés about coups, coercion, *caudillos* and kings. Its findings will challenge the thinking of even long-time observers of the region, not least through its comparative perspective and the fresh understanding of the roles and orientations of the armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand that that perspective suggests.

2020 Soft cover 978-981-4881-75-3 177 pp. BM597 S\$27.71 (GST inclusive)* / S\$25.90 / US\$19.90





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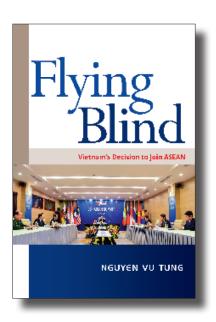
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FLYING BLIND Vietnam's Decision to Join ASEAN

by Nguyen Vu Tung

About the AUTHOR

Nguyen Vu Tung is a professor at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. He gained a PhD degree in Political Science from Columbia University (New York, USA) and serves as Vietnamese diplomat in the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.



About the BOOK

This book discusses Vietnam's relations with ASEAN in the period from the early 1970s to mid-1990s. It focuses on the evolution of Hanoi's view on ASEAN, from denial to integration in the organization. Further, it reveals the reasons behind Hanoi's decision to join ASEAN in 1995 in the context of the transformation of the overall Vietnam's foreign policy when the Cold War ended. Relaxation of the Cold War conditions allowed Hanoi to improve understanding of ASEAN that resulted in better Vietnam-ASEAN relations and subsequent Vietnam's membership in ASEAN.

The author has had access to documents and interviewees that few other researchers can rival. And the richness of the empirical evidence of this book makes a significant contribution to the studies of Vietnam foreign relations in specific and Southeast Asian international relations in general.

"This is a uniquely well-informed account of Vietnam's serious internal debates leading to the decision to join ASEAN in 1995. The story starts with a probing analysis of Hanoi's regional diplomacy and relations with the Soviet Union, China, and the United States from the 1970s onward. Entering the 1990s, the narrative shows how Vietnamese policymakers struggled to reconcile ideological and pragmatic considerations as they navigated complex great-power and regional environments. Professor Tung dispels conventional balance-of-power explanations for Hanoi's embrace of ASEAN, and argues persuasively that the decision to join grew out of a shift from a revolutionary national identity to an identity centered on developmental state model of the Southeast Asian type. This honest and close-up view of policy debates offers a rare opportunity for readers to understand the logic of policymaking in one of the world's most complex diplomatic environments."

— Andrew J. Nathan, Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science, Columbia University

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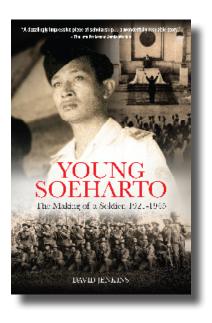
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YOUNG SOEHARTO The Making of a Soldier, 1921–1945

by David Jenkins

About the AUTHOR

David Jenkins, who graduated in Law (1965) and Arts (1967) from Melbourne University, was a foreign correspondent in Southeast Asia for many years. He was a co-winner of a Walkley Award for his contribution to the *Herald*'s coverage from Jakarta and East Timor during the violent 1999 referendum on independence.



About the BOOK

When a reluctant President Sukarno gave Lt Gen Soeharto full executive authority in March 1966, Indonesia was a broken-back state, fractured along class, religious and ethnic lines. Soeharto took a nation in chaos, the largest in Southeast Asia, and transformed it into one of the "Asian miracle" economies—only to leave it back on the brink of ruin when he was forced from office thirty-two years later.

Drawing on his astonishing range of interviews with leading Indonesian generals, former Imperial Japanese Army officers and men who served in the Dutch colonial army, as well as years of patient research in Dutch, Japanese, British, Indonesian and US archives, David Jenkins brings vividly to life the story of how a socially reticent but exceptionally determined young man from rural Java began his rise to power—an ascent which would be capped by thirty years (1968–98) as President of Indonesia, the fourth most populous nation on earth.

Soeharto was one of Asia's most brutal, most durable, most avaricious and most successful dictators. In the course of examining those aspects of his character, this book provides an accessible, highly readable introduction to the complex, but dramatic and utterly absorbing, social, political, religious, economic and military factors that have shaped, and which continue to shape, Indonesia.

2021 Soft cover 978-981-4881-00-5 503 pp. BM588 S\$70.51 (GST inclusive)* / S\$65.90 / US\$55.90





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ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS AND POLITICS OF THE ASIAN ANTHROPOCENE

edited by
Paul Jobin, Ming-sho Ho and
Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao

About the EDITORS

Paul Jobin is Associate Research Fellow and convener of the Asian Social Transformation Thematic Research Team, at the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

Ming-sho Ho is Professor of Sociology at National Taiwan University and currently a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Yenching Institute.

Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao is Chairman of the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation, Chairman of the executive committee of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, National Cheng-Chi University, and Chair Professor of Hakka Studies, National Central University.



"This collection provides a powerful and sophisticated analysis of how environmental movements influence politics in Asia, and how politics influences movements."

John S. Dryzek, Centenary Professor, University of Canberra

"This important book reflects the challenges and questions currently foremost in scholars: activists' and policy-makers' minds - the Anthropocene, environmental justice, China's Belt and Road Initiative, and post-politics - all addressed through the lens of environmental movements in Asia."

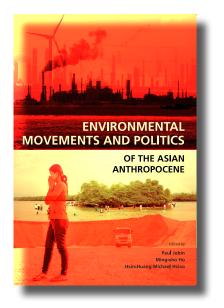
Jonathan Rigg, Professor at the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol

"How have authoritarianism, democratization and political change affected environmentalism in East and Southeast Asia? How have environmental mobilization and demands for environmental justice at the grassroots influenced politics there? These are among the vital questions answered by this insightful and well-crafted volume."

Paul G. Harris, Chair Professor of Global and Environmental Studies, Education University of Hong Kong

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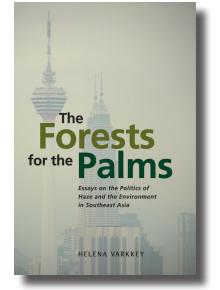


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THE FORESTS FOR THE PALMS Essays on Politics of Haze and the Environment in Southeast Asia

by Helena Varkkey



About the AUTHOR

Helena Varkkey is Senior Lecturer in the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya.

About the BOOK

Transboundary haze has been a recurring problem in the Southeast Asian region since at least 1982. Why does this toxic form of air pollution still persist? Helena Varkkey, a Malaysian political scientist, has been studying this multifaceted problem for more than fifteen years. This book provides an ideal collection for those who want a clear but concise introduction to this complex issue. Its commentaries explore how often sensitive matters of ASEAN diplomacy, national interest or political patronage continue to stand in the way of clear skies in the region.

"The Forests for the Palms is a valuable collection that informs, provokes and urges us to pay attention to the processes behind the production of a commodity that has become both hard to avoid and deeply controversial. Dr Helena Varkkey is a leading expert on Southeast Asia's palm oil industry. She conveys a wealth of scholarly expertise and research-informed analysis in an accessible format."

Natasha Hamilton-Hart, Professor and Director of the New Zealand Asia Institute
The University of Auckland Business School

2021 BM599

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Forthcoming Title

CAPITALISM MAGIC THAILAND Global Modernity and the Making of Enchantment

by Peter A. Jackson

Est. pub. date: Late 2021

About the AUTHOR

Peter A. Jackson is Emeritus Professor in the School of Culture, History & Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University.

Table of CONTENTS

PART I: WHY RELIGIOUS MODERNITY TRENDS IN TWO OPPOSING DIRECTIONS

- 1. Fundamentalism against Magic: The Contradictions of Religious Modernity
- 2. Buddhist in Public, Animist in Private: Semi-colonial Modernity and Transformations of the Thai Religious Field

PART II: THAILAND'S CULTS OF WEALTH

- 3. Context, Hierarchy and Ritual: Theorising the Total Thai Religious Field
- 4. Thailand's Cults of Wealth: Royal Spirits, Magic Monks, Chinese and Indian Deities
- 5. Empowered Amulets and Spirit Possession: Material and Ritual Dimensions of the Thai Cults of Wealth
- 6. The Symbolic Complex of Thai Cults of Wealth

PART III: HOW MODERNITY MAKES MAGIC

7. Capitalism, Media and Ritual in the Enchantment of Thai Modernity

Conclusion: The Thai Cults of Wealth into the Twenty-First Century

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Forthcoming Title

ASEAN CENTRALITY An Autoethnographic Account by a Philippine Diplomat

by Elizabeth Buensuceso

Est. pub. date: Late 2021

About the AUTHOR

Elizabeth Buensuceso is the Officer-in-Charge, Undersecretary for Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines. She is also the Philippines' ASEAN SOM (Senior Officials Meeting) Leader and the Philippine Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Table of Contents

- 1. Why This Book?
- 2. Autoethnography, Memoir, Biography, Auto-What?
- 3. ASEAN Diplomacy and ASEAN Centrality
- 4. ASEAN Centrality as an Expression of ASEAN Leadership in the Region; the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017
- 5. ASEAN Centrality as a Principle of Diplomacy Among Member States
- 6. ASEAN Centrality as a Principle of Diplomacy with ASEAN's External Partners
- 7. ASEAN Centrality as an Aspiration to Raise the Level of Awareness about ASEAN

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SOCIAL ISSUES





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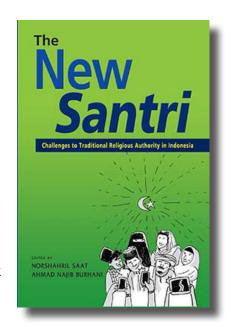
THE NEW SANTRI Challenges to Traditional Religious Authority in Indonesia

edited by Norshahril Saat and Ahmad Najib Burhani



Norshahril Saat is Senior Fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Ahmad Najib Burhani is Senior Researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Jakarta.



About the BOOK

The decentralization of Islamic religious authority in Indonesia is known to many. Historically, the *ulama*—Islamic religious Threads of the Unfolding Web: The Old Javanese Tantu Panggelaran scholars—has not only acted as gatekeepers of faith, symbols of morality, and custodians of the Prophet Muhammad, but have also fought alongside national heroes against Dutch colonialism and checked wrongdoings of post-independence Indonesia. Yet, they have never been united to represent a single class. In the early 20th century, the ulama have organized themselves into grassroots-based movements such Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah. Other groups that have made significant contributions to the dissemination of Islam to the masses are the Sufi tariqah leaders and the Sayyids (Hadramis of Yemeni descent).

Lately, new actors have asserted their Islamic identity to gain popular following. *The New Santri* explains the emergence new forms of religious authority and contestations within the group. It also examines the role of transnational movements in shaping the religious discourse in Indonesia. Some of the questions it seeks to address are: How was Islamic authority defined in the past and is it reconstructed recently? Which are the dominant groups today? Social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have become integrated into the religious discourse today, but are we missing other mediums? Readers will be able to understand contemporary issues, players, and dynamics affecting Islam in Indonesia.

2020 Soft cover 978-981-4881-47-0 369 pp. PIC278 S\$38.41 (GST inclusive)* / S\$35.90/ US\$29.90

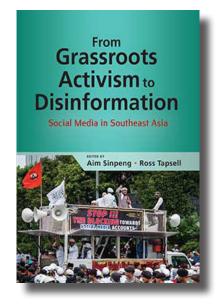




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FROM GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM TO DISINFORMATION Social Media in Southeast Asia edited by Aim Sinpeng and Ross Tapsell



About the EDITORS

Aim Sinpeng is Lecturer, Government and International Relations, University of Sydney, Australia.

Ross Tapsell is Senior Lecturer, College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University.

About the BOOK

This book reflects on the role of social media in the past two decades in Southeast Asia. It traces the emergence of social media discourse in Southeast Asia, and its potential as a "liberation technology" in both democratizing and authoritarian states. It explains the growing decline in internet freedom and increasingly repressive and manipulative use of social media tools by governments, and argues that social media is now an essential platform for control. The contributors detail the increasing role of "disinformation" and "fake news" production in Southeast Asia, and how national governments are creating laws which attempt to address this trend, but which often exacerbate the situation of state control.

From Grassroots Activism to Disinformation explores three main questions: How did social media begin as a vibrant space for grassroots activism to becoming a tool for disinformation? Who were the main actors in this transition: governments, citizens or the platforms themselves? Can reformists "reclaim" the digital public sphere? And if so, how?

2020 Soft cover 978-981-4951-02-9 225 pp. PIC280 S\$35.20 (GST inclusive)* / S\$32.90/ US\$29.90



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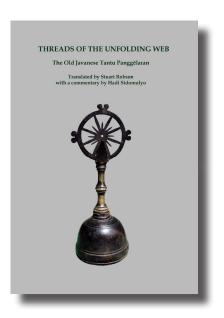
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THREADS OF THE UNFOLDING WEB The Old Javanese Tantu Panggelaran

translated by
Stuart Robson
with a commentary by Hadi Sidomulyo

About the TRANSLATOR

Stuart Robson is a leading specialist in the fields of Old Javanese Language and Literature. He has occupied the position of Senior Lecturer in Javanese at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands (1979-91), Associate Professor of Indonesian at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia (1991-2001), as well as Visiting Professor at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (2014-15).



About the BOOK

"Threads of the Unfolding Web is essential reading for scholars, students and the general reader interested in Javanese history of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Little is known about the history of Java in this period, which witnessed the beginnings of major global economic, political, cultural and religious change. It was a time when Java saw the decline of the once powerful eastern Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, the rise of Muslim kingdoms on Java's northern coast and the arrival of the first Europeans in the person of the Portuguese Tomé Pires in Java's cosmopolitan ports.

Stuart Robson's expert English translation of the *Tantu Panggělaran* gives his readers ready access to this important work, which provides insight into how the author and his contemporary Javanese readers imagined the realities of the world in which they lived. We learn how they conceived the creation of this world and understood the relationship between the gods and men. Importantly, we learn also how they conceived a history of the foundation and spread of Bhairava Śivaite hermitages, shrines and temples. The work traces the history of this network from its origins in the vicinity of the Dieng plateau and the northern plains of Batang and Pekalongan to its subsequent expansion to the Tengger and Hyang Massifs of eastern Java. Hadi Sidomulyo's impressive commentary, an amalgam of textual analysis and the survey of archaeological sites, is a model for the way in which further research of this sort might be conducted and underlines the urgent need for further archaeological surveys and the future excavation of archaeological sites."

Professor Emeritus Peter Worsley, Indonesian Studies, University of Sydney

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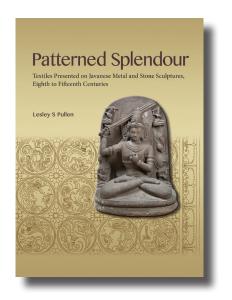


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PATTERNED SPLENDOUR Textiles Presented on Javanese Metal and Stone Sculptures; Eighth to Fifteenth Centuries

by
Lesley S. Pullen
(Drawings by Yiran Huang)



About the AUTHOR

Lesley S. Pullen is a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the School of Arts, SOAS University of London.

About the BOOK

There exist numerous free-standing figurative sculptures produced in Java between the eighth and fifteenth centuries whose dress displays detailed textile patterns. This surviving body of sculpture, carved in stone and cast in metal, varying in both size and condition, remain in archaeological sites and museums in Indonesia and worldwide. The equatorial climate of Java has precluded any textiles from this period surviving. Therefore this book argues the textiles represented on these sculptures offer a unique insight into the patterned splendour of the textiles in circulation during this period. Hence this publication will contribute to our knowledge of the textiles in circulation at that time by including the first comprehensive record of this body of sculpture, together with their textile patterns classified into a typology of styles within each chapter.

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1819 & BEFORE Singapore's Pasts

edited by Kwa Chong Guan

About the EDITOR

Kwa Chong Guan is Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Associate Fellow at the Temasek History Research Centre, and Adjunct (Hon.) Associate Professor at the History Department, National University of Singapore. He chairs the Archaeology Advisory Panel established by the National Heritage Board in August 2019.



About the BOOK

The essays published here began as a series of lectures commemorating the bicentennial of Thomas Stamford Raffles's establishment of a British Station in 1819. The essays draw on thirty-five years of archaeological investigations on and around Fort Canning, new readings of the Malay Annals, early Chinese records reporting Singapore, and the Portuguese and Dutch records to probe and challenge our understanding of Singapore's history before Raffles. Altogether, these essays suggest that Singapore had a pre-1819 past that was deeply connected to the millennium-long maritime history of the Straits of Melaka and its links to the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

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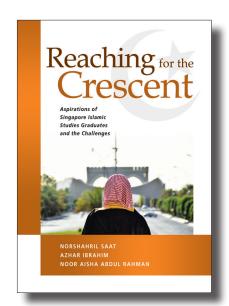
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REACHING FOR THE CRESCENT

Aspirations of Singapore Islamic Studies Graduates and the Challenges

*by*Norshahril Saat, Azhar Ibrahim
and Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman



About the AUTHORS

Norshahril Saat is Senior Fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Azhar Ibrahim is Lecturer at the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS).

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About the BOOK

Islamic religious teachers (asatizah) and scholars (ulama) play a significant role in providing spiritual leadership for the Singapore Malay/Muslim community. Lately, the group has been cast under the spotlight over a range of issues, from underperformance in the national examination, their ability to integrate into the broader society, exposure to radical and conservative ideas such as Salafism from the Middle East, and unemployment. Reaching for the Crescent examines a growing segment within the group, namely Islamic studies graduates, who obtained their degrees from universities in the Middle East and neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia. It identifies factors that condition the proliferation of Islamic studies graduates in Singapore, examine the dominant religious institutions they attend, the nature of Islamic education they received, and their challenges. It tackles the impact of their religious education on the spiritual life and well-being of the community. Based on qualitative and quantitative data collected, the book calls for a rethinking of a prevailing discourse of Arabization of Singapore Muslims and academic approaches that focus on madrasah education and Islam through the security lens.

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Forthcoming Title

THE CREATIVE SOUTH Buddhist and Hindu Art in Mediaeval Maritime Asia, vol. 1

edited by Andrea Acri and Peter Sharrock

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About the EDITORS

Andrea Acri (PhD Leiden University, 2011) is Maître de conférences/Assistant Professor in Tantric Studies at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE, PSL University) in Paris.

Peter D. Sharrock researches the art history of the Angkorian Khmer Empire and the Esoteric Buddhist and Hindu art of Maritime Asia from AD800 to 1400. He lectures at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), where he is a Project Board member of the School's growing Southeast Asian Academic Art Programme (SAAAP).

Table of CONTENTS

Introduction. Volume 1: Intra-Asian Transfers and Mainland Southeast Asia, *by Andrea Acri and Peter Sharrock*PART I: INFLUENCES FROM THE SOUTH

- 1. From Melayu to Thamel and Back: The Transmigration of the Eight-Armed Amoghapāśa, by lain Sinclair
- 2. In the Footsteps of Amoghavajra (705–774): Southern Indian Artistic Mode in Tang China and its Transmission to Tibet, *by Yuri Khokhlov*
- 3. Heruka-Mandalas across Maritime Asia, by Peter Sharrock

PART II: TRANSFERS AND INNOVATIONS IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 4. Goddess Prajñāpāramitā and Esoteric Buddhism in Jayavarman VII's Angkor, by Jinah Kim
- 5. Dancers, Musicians, Ascetics, and Priests: Performance-based Śaiva Worship and its Development in the Temple Cults of Angkor, *by Swati Chemburkar*
- 6. Libraries or Fire Shrines? Reinterpreting the Function of 'Annex Buildings' in Khmer Śaiva Temples from the Prism of Early Śaivism, *by Shivani Kapoor, Swati Chemburkar, Andrea Acri, and Olivier Cunin*
- 7. Śaiva Religious Iconography: Dancing Śiva in Multi-Polity Medieval Campā, by Bui Dieu Linh Mai
- 8. The Colossal Trà Kiệu Rāmāyaṇa Pedestal in Campā and its Relationship to Courtly Culture in Cambodia, East Java, and China, *by Mya Chau*
- 9. On the Chronological Interrelationship between Newly Found Inscriptions and the Temple Architecture of Campā: The Hòa Lai and Po Dam Sites, by Trần Kỳ Phương

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THE CREATIVE SOUTH Buddhist and Hindu Art in Mediaeval Maritime Asia, vol. 2

edited by Andrea Acri and Peter Sharrock

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Peter D. Sharrock researches the art history of the Angkorian Khmer Empire and the Esoteric Buddhist and Hindu art of Maritime Asia from AD800 to 1400. He lectures at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), where he is a Project Board member of the School's growing Southeast Asian Academic Art Programme (SAAAP).

Table of CONTENTS

Introduction. Volume Two: Odisha and Java, by Andrea Acri and Peter Sharrock

PART I: FROM ODISHA TO JAVA

- 1. Saviour 'at the Time of Death': Amoghapāśa's Cultic Role in Late First Millennium Odishan Buddhist Sites, by Sonali Dhingra
- Circulation of Buddhist Mandalas in Maritime Asia: Epigraphic and Iconographic Evidence from Odisha and Java (8th–11th Century), by Umakant Misra

PART II: JAVA AND ITS TRANSLOCAL ECHOES

- 3. The Scheme of Borobudur, by Hudaya Kandahjaya
- 4. Candi Pembakaran at Ratu Boko: Its Possible Function and Association with the Medieval Sri Lankan Monastery at Anurādhapura, *by Saran Suebsantiwongse*
- 5. The Conqueror of the Three Worlds: The Cult of Trailokyavijaya in Java Studied Through the Lens of Epigraphical and Sculptural Remains, *by Michel Gauvain*
- 6. The Social Context of the Central Javanese Temples of Kalasan and Prambanan (8th–9th Century CE), by Mimi Savitri
- 7. Sītā as Rāvaņa's Daughter at Caṇḍi Prambanan, by Roy Jordaan
- 8. Hydro-architectonic Conceptualizations in Central Javanese, Khmer, and South Indian Religious Architecture: The Prambanan Temple as a Sahasralinga Mechanism for the Consecration of Water, *by Jeffrey Sundberg*
- 9. New Archaeological Data from Mount Penanggungan, East Java, by Hadi Sidomulyo

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Forthcoming Title BAGAN Ancient and Living Buddhist Traditions

by Elizabeth H. Moore

Est. pub. date: Early 2022

About the AUTHOR

Elizabeth Moore is Professor in the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and Visiting Researcher at the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

About the BOOK

Wider Bagan is the area outside the renowned Buddhist capital, places with vestiges of the eleventh to thirteenth century CE cultural tradition of Bagan. Tangible factors or attributes of the Bagan era in these places are found in the major river valleys of Myanmar: inscriptions, walls, water management features, temples and images. Collectively, these attributes record the spread of Buddhist properties and features supporting their associated lay communities. Many connect to earlier remains, and some have sustained their Bagan-period heritage to the present. From nearly six hundred attributes inventoried in Wider Bagan, nine nodal places are identified, places of interchange with each other, with the capital and with neighbouring regions. In assessing the evidence, an interdisciplinary approach is applied to incorporate field survey and local knowledge as well as published literature on archaeology, art history, geography and anthropology. Thematic and geographical analysis of the Wider Bagan data shows a related but different trajectory from that of eleventh to thirteenth century heyday of the capital. Bagan was a "purpose-built" religious and political centre, but in villages and towns of Wider Bagan, the styles of art and architecture and patronage from the capital were one within many earlier and later phases and capitals. While much has been written about Bagan, little on-the-ground attention has been devoted to areas beyond the capital. They have stories to tell, ones of the past and of the present, that are narrated in this book.

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Forthcoming Title

PERANAKAN CHINESE IDENTITIES IN THE GLOBALIZING MALAY ARCHIPELAGO

by Leo Suryadinata

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About the AUTHOR

Leo Suryadinata is Visiting Senior Fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and Professor (Adj.) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Table of Contents

PART ONE: Regional Dimensions: Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (IMS)

- 1. Peranakan and Other Related Terms
- 2. Peranakan Chinese Identities in IMS (1) Indonesia
- 3. Peranakan Chinese Identities in IMS (2) Malaysia and Singapore
- 4. Peranakan Chinese Identities in IMS (3) Peranakan Associations and Identities
- 5. Peranakan Chinese in IMS: Socio-Political Dimensions
- 6. Malay and Indonesian Translations of Chinese Literature
- 7. Peranakan Chinese Literature and Publications in IMS
- 8. Political and National Identities of Peranakan Chinese Leaders in IMS
- 9. The Prospects of Peranakan Chinese Communities and Globalization

PART TWO: Focusing on Indonesia

- 10. Peranakan Chinese and the Indonesian Press, Language and Literature
- 11. Chinese Muslims in Indonesia
- 12. State and "Chinese Religions" in Indonesia: Confucianism, Tridharma and Buddhism during Suharto rule and After
- 13. Peranakan Politics and Decolonization
- 14. Integration of Indonesian Chinese

Appendix: Tan Ta Sen: The Prospects of the Peranakan Chinese and Globalization

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