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CREDIT AND DEBT IN INDONESIA, 860-1930



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From Peonage to Pawnshop,
from Kongsí to Cooperative

EDITED BY DAVID HENLEY & PETER BOOMGAARD



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Preface

This book has its origins in a KITLV (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies) research project entitled “Credit, Risk, and the Economy of Debt: Indonesian Trajectories” (CREDIT), in which we have been the principal participants, and in a discussion panel on “Credit and Debt in Southeast Asia, Past and Present”, which we organized at the Fourth Conference of the European Association of Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS) in Paris in September 2004. Besides six pieces which — in most cases after much revision — became chapters included here, the Paris panel also included papers by Andi Faisal Bakti, Greg Bankoff, Pramuan Bunkanwanicha, Caleb Kwong, Martin Ramstedt, and Willem Wolters. We remain grateful to these scholars for their input and insights, some of which are indirectly reflected in the present volume. Our thanks go also to Anne Booth, Thomas Lindblad, and other members of the panel audience for their critical and constructive comments. Two of our eight chapters, those by Jan Wisseman Christie and Heather Sutherland, did not originate in Paris, but were written after the conference at our request. We are particularly grateful to these contributors, without whom the range of topics and periods covered would have been much less adequate. In addition we would like to thank Rosemary Robson, for improving the English in some of the pieces; the staff of the KITLV, for their always cheerful assistance when we were in search of publications and illustrations; and Triena Ong of ISEAS Publishing, for her help, and forbearance, during the reviewing and editing process.

David Henley and Peter Boomgaard

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Jan Wisseman Christie (c.j.christie@btinternet.com) took her first degree in Indo-Iranian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and obtained her doctorate in Art and Archaeology of Southeast Asia from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London in 1982. She recently retired from her position as Senior Lecturer and Honorary Professor in the Centre for South-East Asian Studies at the University of Hull, and now holds a professorial research fellowship at SOAS. She has written on diverse aspects of early Javanese states, and is at present completing a register of the inscriptions of the early state of Mataram in Java.

Alexander Claver (alexanderclaver@hotmail.com) studied history at Utrecht University, where he specialized in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Dutch economic and business history. In 2006 he obtained his doctorate from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam with a thesis entitled “Commerce and Capital in Colonial Java”, focusing on trade finance and commercial relations between Europeans and Chinese during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His research interests also include entrepreneurship and corporate strategy in contemporary Southeast Asia. At present he is working on Indonesian legal history, as well as the history of the Armenians in the Netherlands Indies.

David Henley (henley@kitlv.nl) is a researcher at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden.

He has written on diverse aspects of Indonesian history. Among his publications are *Fertility, Food and Fever: Population, Economy and Environment in North and Central Sulawesi, 1600–1930* (2005) and (as editor and contributor) *The Revival of Tradition in Indonesian Politics: The Deployment of Adat from Colonialism to Indigenism* (2007).

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A Comparison Between Java and the Netherlands at the Beginning of the 19th Century”, *Explorations in Economic History* 40 (2003): 1–23; and “On the Efficiency of Markets for Agricultural Products: Rice Prices and Capital Markets in Java, 1823–1853”, *Journal of Economic History* 64 (2004): 1028–55.