

Recent Books from Indonesia – December 2008
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History

Reporting Indonesia: The Jakarta Post Story 1983-2008 / Bill Tarrant
Singapore: Equinox Publishing (Asia) Pte. Ltd, 2008
282p,; 22cm
ISBN-13: 9789793780696
\$ 19.95

Waves of Freedom: Radio News Agency KBR6811 / Santoso
Indonesia : KBR 68H, 2007
xvii. 189p,; 20cm
ISBN-10: 9799701287
\$ 15.00

Dutch Culture Overseas: Colonial Practice in the Netherlands Indies 1900-1942 / Frances Gouda
Singapore: Equinox Publishing (Asia) Pte. Ltd, 2008
ix. 305p,; 23cm
ISBN-13: 9789793780627
\$ 39.90

European colonial expansion led to Dutch notions of civilised society, or the Dutch's community's flexible and relatively charitable attitudes toward 'others', being scattered (as in the Greek word 'diaspeirein') to the four corners of the earth. In some cases, the exportation of Dutch cultural values to places overseas, like North America, endowed 'Dutchness' with subtle new meanings. But in colonial Indonesia, Dutch political customs and traditions were transformed in the process of migrating to exotic locales.

In this book, Frances Gouda examines the ways in which the Netherlands portrayed its unique colonial style to the outside world. Why were citizens of a small and politically insignificant European nation able to represent as natural and normal their dominance over ancient civilizations on islands such as Java and Bali? How did Dutch colonial residents explain the cultural differences between themselves and the supposedly 'primitive' peoples of the Indonesian archipelago?

In trying to understand the 'gendering' practices of colonial governance in the Netherlands East Indies, Gouda also explores the interactions of Dutch and Indonesian women with European men.

Gangsters and Revolutionaries: The Jakarta People's Militia and the Indonesian Revolution 1945-1949 / Robert Cribb

Reprint

Singapore: Equinox Publishing (Asia) Pte. Ltd, 2009

222p,; 23cm

ISBN-13: 9789793780719

\$ 33.50

Gangsters and Revolutionaries is the first in-depth study of one of the 'people's armies' which emerged from the chaos at the close of World War II in Indonesia to join the struggle for Indonesian independence in 1945. It traces the story of the People's Militia of Greater Jakarta from its origins as a loose network of petty criminals and labor bosses in the slums of urban Jakarta and the feudal estates of the surrounding countryside, to its destruction at the hands of the Indonesian army in the late 1940s.

Lost Times and Untold Tales from the Malay World / Jan van der Putten & Mary Kilcline Cody (Eds.)

Singapore: NUS Press, 2009

xxiii. 396p,; 23cm

Includes bibliographical references and index

ISBN-13: 9789971694548

1. Islamic learning and scholarship – Southeast Asia
2. Islamic learning and scholarship – Malay Peninsula
3. Malays (Asian people) – Malay Peninsula – Intellectual life

\$ 30.00

How did the komodo dragon influence Hollywood? What do Wanted posters reveal about the Wild Wild East? Was the Hapless explorer a martyr to science or a gaseous windbag? Why were Colonial officials secret pill poppers? Did bicycle really promote Women's Lib? Who went looking for love in all wrong places? What do you do at the Get-Rich-Quick Tree? The answer to these and many other questions are found in the witty, useful, informative, amusing and sometimes amazing stories that make up this collection.

Inspired by the wry yet deeply scholarly perspective of Australian philologist Ian Proudfoot, the editors of Lost Times and Untold Tales from the Malay World bring together a distinguished group of international scholars who look at calendars and time, royal myths, colonial expeditions, printing, propaganda, theater, art, Islamic manuscripts, erotic literature and many other topics from wholly unexpected angles.

The book demonstrates the spectacular diversity of scholarship on the Malay World, and shows that offbeat texts can produce fascinating new insights into the past.

Law

The Voice of the Law in Transition: Indonesian jurists and their languages, 1915 – 2000 / Ab Massier

Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2008

xxii. 301p,; 24cm

ISBN-13: 9789067182713

\$ 39.50

In the literature on Indonesian legal history, the role of language has been paid scant attention. Even the replacement of Dutch by Indonesian as the official language of the law, surely a major event for the work of Indonesian jurists, has not been closely examined. Yet,

since the early 1970s, legal usage and terminology have been the topic of a steady stream of highly critical publications by linguists and, remarkably, by jurists as well. Their criticism is focused on the heterogeneity of law language and terminology, and the deviation of legal usage from the official standard language. Government measures (language courses, law dictionaries) have not allayed this criticism.

This study exposes two fundamental defects in the government measures and in the criticism itself. Firstly, they are grounded in an instrumental approach to language, an approach that sees language as a mere tool of the jurist, and as secondary in importance to the conceptual world that is considered laws core business. Secondly, they greatly underestimate the impact of the declining knowledge of Dutch upon the development of Indonesian law language. Massier argues that the law must be viewed as inextricably bound up with the language in which it is formulated. Consequently, legal training and practice are examined in this study in terms of language behaviour and conventions, of learning, writing and speaking the languages of the law. The voice of the law in transition provides a language history of Indonesian law and its practitioners.

Politics

Southeast Asia in Political Science: Theory, Region, and Qualitative Analysis / Erik Martinez Kuhonta, Dan Slater & Tuong Vu (Eds.)
California: Stanford University Press, 2008

xviii. 455p,; 23cm

Includes bibliographical references and index

ISBN-13: 9780804761529

1. Southeast Asia – politics and government

2. Political science – Southeast Asia

\$ 30.00

This book argues that Southeast Asia political studies have made important contributions to theory building in comparative politics through a dialogue involving theory, area studies, and qualitative methodology. The book provides a state-of-the-art review of key topics in the field, including: state structures, political regimes, political parties, contentious politics, civil society, ethnicity, religion, rural development, globalization, and political economy. The chapters allow readers to trace the development of the field of Southeast Asian politics and to address central debates in comparative politics. The book will serve as a valuable reference for undergraduate and graduate students, scholars of Southeast Asian politics, and comparativists engaged in theoretical debates at the heart of political science.

Uma Politics: An Ethnography of Democratization in West Sumba, Indonesia, 1986 – 2006 / Jacqueline A.C. Vel

Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2008

xvii. 277p,; 24cm

ISBN-13: 9789067183246

\$ 39.50

Democracy cannot be implemented overnight. Democratization is an often unpredictable process. This book concentrates on that political transformation in one of Indonesia's most "traditional" islands, Sumba. Why does democratization create such great opportunities for local politicians with their private agenda's? Why does regional autonomy, as part of the national democratization program, promote socio-economic inequality in West Sumba?

This book is written out of an intimate knowledge of Sumbas social groupings. Jacqueline Vel lived in Sumba as a development worker for six years in the 1980s and has

made frequent return visits for further research since then. She studied every stage of "transition to democracy" in the local context, thus creating this ethnography of democratization. The book analyses themes apparent in a series of chronological events that occurred over a period of twenty years (1986-2006). Uma Politics is the sequel of Vel's dissertation *The Uma Economy*, and the title refers to the uniquely Sumbanese type of network politics. The author brings together tradition with the modern economy, government and politics into an evolving, dynamic concept of political culture.

Ethnic Chinese in Contemporary Indonesia / Leo Suryadinata

Singapore: ISEAS Publications, 2008

209p,; 23cm

ISBN-13: 9789812308344

1. Chinese – Indonesia
2. Chinese – Indonesia – Politics and government
3. Indonesia – Ethnic relations

\$ 29.90

The Chinese in Indonesia have played an important role in Indonesia society before and after the fall of Soeharto. This book provides comprehensive and up-to-date information by examining them in detail during that era with special reference to the post-Soeharto period. The contributors to this volume consist of both older and younger generation scholars writing on Indonesian Chinese. They offer new information and fresh perspectives on the issues of government policies, legal position, ethnic politics, race relations, religion, education, and prospects of the Chinese Indonesians.

Indonesia: The Rise of Capital / Richard Robison

Singapore: Equinox Publishing (Asia) Pte. Ltd, 2008

425p,; 23cm

ISBN-13: 9789793780658

\$ 39.90

Studies of Indonesian politics have long focused upon the military and the bureaucracy because it is within these institutions that formal power is located, not the parties, unions, chambers of commerce or corporations. However, such an approach can neglect the powerful influences exerted upon the state by social and economic forces. This important and controversial new book examines the way in which one of these forces, capital, has emerged in the past two decades as a major influence upon the state, its officials and policies.

The emergence of the capitalist class is examined, along with its internal divisions and conflicts and its relations with the state. In particular, attention is given to the fusion of the ruling strata of state officials and the capitalist class – the potential basis for a new ruling class. This is set against the weakness of capital caused by its division into domestic and international, state and private, Chinese and indigenous. These factors are in turn set in the context of international influences – the rise and fall of the oil boom, the activities of the IBRD and IMF, the decline of export earnings and the fiscal difficulties of the state. Since its original publication in 1986, *Indonesia: The Rise of Capital* has been the best selling academic book on Indonesian politics and the most cited in the SSCI and Google Scholar citation indexes.

Opposing Suharto: Compromise, Resistance, and Regime Change in Indonesia / Edward Aspinall

California: Stanford Universities Press, 2005

xiii. 328p,; 23cm

Includes bibliographical references and index

ISBN-13: 9780804748452

1. Indonesia – Politics and government – 1966-1998
2. Soeharto, 1921 –
3. Opposition (Political science)- Indonesia –History -20th century

\$ 25.00

The Fourth Circle: A Political Ecology of Sumatra's Rainforest Frontier / John F. McCarthy

California: Stanford Universities Press, 2006

xxiii. 353p,; 23cm

Includes bibliographical references and index

ISBN-13: 9780804752121

1. Forest policy – Indonesia – Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
2. Forest management – Indonesia – Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
3. Biological diversity conservation – Indonesia – Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
4. Farms, Small – Indonesia – Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
5. Adat law – Indonesia – Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

\$ 29.90

Sociology

(Mis) Remembering Soe Hok Gie: Transmitting and (Re) Constructing Social Memory In Turbulent Indonesia/Gloria Arlini

Singapore: National University of Singapore, 2008

24p., 30cm

ISSN: 0129-8186

ISBN: 978-981-3033-81-8

Department of Sociology working papers : 187

\$ 12.00

Watching Si Doel: Television, language, and cultural identity in contemporary Indonesia (DVD included) / Klarijn Loven

Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2008

ix. 377p,; 24cm

ISBN-13: 978906718279

\$ 60.00

While television in today's world increasingly displays a global character, national television systems are still firmly rooted in a specific locality. But in what ways does this locality actually shape the content and performance of national television? What is the significance of local cultures and local languages in these processes of mediation? And how do the local, the national, and the global intersect in discourses of and discourse on television?

Taking a critical discourse analysis perspective, *Watching Si Doel* investigates these and related questions in the context of contemporary Indonesia. Starting from the nationwide popularity of the local television serial *Si Doel Anak Sekolah* ('Educated Doel'),

it examines the various ways in which the national government, Indonesian television producers, and local audiences shape, interpret, and struggle over the meaning of the phrase 'national television'. In doing so, the book explores what Indonesian television at the turn of the century sounds and looks like and, significantly, ought to sound and look like according to those who create and control television and those who watch and interpret it.

While providing insight into the production, nature, and reception of television discourse in general, this book particularly seeks to clarify the relationship between television, language, and power in late New Order and post-Soeharto Indonesia.

A DVD containing video excerpts from the sitcom 'Si Doel' comes with the book.
