

Recent Books from Indonesia – May 2010

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Economics/Development Studies

Poverty and Social Protection in Indonesia / Joan Hardjono, Nuning Akhmadi & Sudarno Sumarto (Edited)

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2010

xxxi. 272p. ; 21cm.

ISBN-13: 9789812309396

1. Poverty – Indonesia
2. Indonesia – Social conditions

\$ 39.90

This book consists of papers that present the findings of research done by the SMERU Research Institute in Jakarta, Indonesia. Most describe the effects on the poor of the Indonesian economic crisis of 1997-98 and the response of the Indonesian government in the form of a Social Safety Net consisting of poverty mitigation programs. With the gradual recovery of the economy after 2000, the Indonesian government began reducing subsidies for fuel products and has channelled budgetary savings into a new series of targeted social protection and poverty alleviation undertakings that include unconditional cash transfers. The effectiveness of Indonesia's poverty alleviation programs has, however, been reduced by the difficulty of targeting beneficiaries accurately because of a lack of reliable, up-to-date poverty figures. In many instances unsuitable targeting methodology has been compounded by bad governance at the local level, while the introduction of regional autonomy, accompanied by the decentralization of authority to the district level, has formed a further complicating factor.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120015>

History/Politics

Problems of Democratisation in Indonesia: Elections, Institutions and Society / Edward Aspinall & Marcus Mietzner (Edited)

Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), 2010

xix. 360p. ; 24cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814279895 (HB)

\$ 39.90

Alternately lauded as a democratic success story and decried as a flawed democracy, Indonesia deserves serious consideration by anyone concerned with the global state of democracy. Yet, more than ten years after the collapse of the authoritarian Suharto regime, we still know little about how the key institutions of Indonesian democracy actually function. This book, written by leading democracy experts and scholars of Indonesia, presents a

sorely needed study of the inner workings of Indonesia's political system, and its interactions with society. Combining careful case studies with an eye to the big picture, it is an indispensable guide to democratic Indonesia, its achievements, shortcomings and continuing challenges.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119006>

Islamism and Democracy in Indonesia: Piety and Pragmatism / Masdar Hilmy

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2010

xi. 319p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789812309716

1. Islam and politics – Indonesia
2. Democracy – Religious aspects – Islam – Indonesia
3. Islam and state – Indonesia

\$ 49.90

Most scholarly works conducted within the period of post-New Order Indonesia have underlined the fact that Indonesian Islamists reject the notion of democracy; no adequate explanation nonetheless has been attempted thus far as to how and to what extent democracy is being rejected. This book is dedicated to filling the gap by examining the complex reality behind the Islamists rejection of democracy. It focuses its analysis on two streams of Islamism: the two Islamist groups that seek extra-parliamentary means to achieve their goals, that is, MMI and HTI, and the PKS Islamists who choose the existing political party system as a means of their power struggle. As this book has demonstrated, there are times when the two streams of Islamism share a common platform of understanding and interpretation as well as an intersection where they are in conflict with one another. The interplay between contested meanings over particular theological matters on normative grounds and power contests among the Islamists proves to be critical in shaping this complexity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120016>

Understanding Islam in Indonesia: Politics and Diversity / Robert Pringle

Singapore: Editions Didier Millet Pte. Ltd., 2010

220p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814260091

\$ 24.90

Popular perceptions of Islam in the world's largest Muslim-majority country reflect contending stereotypes. Some see it as mystical and benign, others fear that Islamic extremists are already on the way to dominating Indonesia's struggling democracy. For those who don't know what to think, this readable book offers keys to understanding what is really going on, drawn from analysis of Indonesia's long history, unparalleled diversity and contemporary development.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119178>

Religion – Islam

Varieties of Religious Authority: Changes and Challenges in 20th Century Indonesian Islam / Azyumardi Azra, Kees Van Dijk & Nico J.G. Kaptein (Edited)

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing &

Europe: International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), 2010

xvii. 211p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789812309402 (HB)

1. Ulama – Indonesia

2. Authority – Religious aspects – Islam

3. Islam – Indonesia – History – 20th century

IIAS-ISEAS series on Asia

\$ 39.90

The twentieth century was a fascinating period of profound political, social and economic changes in Indonesia. These changes contributed to the diversification of the religious landscape and as a result, religious authority was redistributed over an increasing number of actors. Although many Muslims in Indonesia continued to regard the ulama, the traditional religious scholars, as the principle source of religious guidance, religious authority has become more diffused and differentiated over time. The present book consists of contributions which all deal with the multi-facetted and multidimensional topic of religious authority and aim to complement each other. Most papers deal with Indonesia, but two dealing with other countries have been included in order to add a comparative dimension. Amongst the topics dealt with are the different and changing roles of the ulama, the rise and role of Muslim organizations, developments within Islamic education, like the madrasa, and the spread of Salafi ideas in contemporary Indonesia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120017>

Travel/ Travel History

Ring of Fire: An Indonesian Odyssey / Lawrence Blair with Lorne Blair

Singapore: Editions Didier Millet Pte. Ltd., 2010

First published in 1988 by Batam Books

248p. ; 22cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814260107

\$ 19.90

The true story behind the award-winning PBS television series, Ring of Fire charts the Blairs brothers' 10-year sojourn through the world's largest and least known archipelago – the islands of Indonesia. Amid impenetrable rain forests, erupting volcanoes and startling natural beauty, the brothers have captured on film and in words the story of one of the most captivating and intriguing explorations ever made.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120019>

Sociology

Secrets of Bali: Fresh Light on the Morning of the World / Jonathan Copeland with Ni Wayan Murni

Bangkok: Orchid Press, 2010

424p. ; 21cm.

ISBN-13: 9789745241183

\$ 30.00

With its dramatic vistas, its attractive, hospitable people and its rich cultural traditions, the magical isle of Bali has captured the hearts and imaginations of millions, ever since visitors from the West began to arrive in the early 20th century. Incredibly, ancient Balinese cultural traditions remain richly intact today, in the face of 21st century modernity and a highly developed tourist industry.

Yet few visitors ever really begin to understand the colourful pageantry that surrounds them virtually everywhere they travel on the island. *Secrets of Bali* is the key to this understanding. From Balinese life, religion, festivals and offerings, architecture, music, dance, textiles, dress, carvings and paintings, masks, manuscripts, meals and much more, this is the one book to which the visitor can turn for the answers. A 'must' for foreign visitors, residents, and those everywhere who have fallen under the spell of 'The Morning of the World'.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119026>
