

Recent Books on Indonesia – May 2012

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Anthropology/Archaeology

From Lanka Eastwards : The Ramayana in the Literature and Visual Arts of Indonesia /
Andrea Acri, Helen Creese & Arlo Griffiths (Editors)
Leiden, Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2011
xvi. 259p. ; 24cm.
ISBN-13: 9789067183840
\$ 43.00 / PB
586 gm.

The Kakawin Ramayana, arguably the oldest Old Javanese epic text in Indic metres (circa 9th century AD), holds a unique position in the literary heritage of Indonesia. The poem has retained a remarkable vitality through the centuries in the Archipelago, inspiring many forms of artistic expression not only in the domain of literature but also in the visual and performing arts, from the reliefs of the majestic Central Javanese temples to modern puppet-show performances.

Displaying a virtuoso array of metrical patterns, the Kakawin Ramayana is among the very few Old Javanese texts for which a specific Sanskrit prototype has been identified, namely the difficult poem Bhattikavya (circa 7th century AD), itself a version of the great Ramayana epic ascribed to Valmiki (circa 6th-1st century BC). The Old Javanese poem is an original and skillful work of re-elaboration that documents a fascinating interaction between cultural elements of the Sanskritic tradition with those indigenous to the Javanese setting.

The studies included in this volume, written by experts in a wide range of disciplines, focus on disparate aspects of the Kakawin Ramayana and the constellation of cultural phenomena revolving around it, providing the reader with a key to the understanding of the rich Old Javanese textual heritage and the transcultural intellectual dynamics that contributed to shaping the cultural heritage of Indonesia up to the present.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141833>

Economics

Indonesia's Economy Since Independence / Thee Kian Wie
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2012
xvii. 307p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789814379632
1. Indonesia – Economic conditions – 1945-
2. Indonesia – Economic policy – 20th century
\$ 42.90 / PB
436 gm.

This book contains a collection of papers on various aspects of Indonesia's economic and its industrial development. It discusses the early independence period in the 1950s; the Soeharto era (1966-1998); and the ensuing two economic crises, namely the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997/98 and the Global Financial Crisis of 2008.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=140967>

History

Cleanliness and Culture : Indonesian Histories / Kees van Dijk and Jean Gelman Taylor (Eds)

Leiden, Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2011

xii. 204p. ; 22cm.

ISBN-13: 9789067183758

\$ 43.00 / PB

358 gm.

In Cleanliness and Culture attention shifts to the tropics, to Indonesia, in colonial times as well as in the present. Subjects range from the use of soap and the washing of clothes as a pretext to claim superiority of race and class to how references to being clean played a role in a campaign against European homosexuals in the Netherlands Indies at the end of the 1930s. Other topics are eerie skin diseases and the sanitary measures to eliminate them, and how misconceptions about lack of hygiene as the cause of illness hampered the finding of a cure. Attention is also drawn to differences in attitude towards performing personal body functions outdoors and retreating to the privacy of the bathroom, to traditional bathing ritual and to the modern tropical spa culture as a manifestation of a New Asian lifestyle.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141836>

Healers on the Colonial Market : Native Doctors and Midwives in the Dutch East Indies / Liesbeth Hesselink

Leiden, Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2011

viii. 376p. ; 22cm.

ISBN: 9789067183826

\$ 50.00 / PB

622 gm.

Healers on the colonial market is one of the few studies on the Dutch East Indies from a postcolonial perspective. It provides an enthralling addition to research on both the history of the Dutch East Indies and the history of colonial medicine. This book will be of interest to historians, historians of science and medicine, and anthropologists. How successful were the two medical training programmes established in Jakarta by the colonial government in 1851? One was a medical school for Javanese boys, and the other a school for midwives for Javanese girls, and the graduates were supposed to replace native healers, the dukun. However, the indigenous population was not prepared to use the services of these doctors and midwives. Native doctors did in fact prove useful as vaccinators and assistant doctors, but the school for midwives was closed in 1875. Even though there were many horror stories of mistakes made during dukun-assisted deliveries, the school was not reopened, and instead a handful of girls received practical training from European physicians. Under the Ethical Policy there was more attention paid to the welfare of the indigenous population and the need for doctors increased. More native boys received medical training and went to work as general practitioners. Nevertheless, not everybody accepted these native doctors as the colleagues of European physicians.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141838>

Heirs to World Culture : Being Indonesian 1950 – 1965 / Jennifer Lindsay and Maya H.T. Liem (Editors)

Leiden, Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2012

Xv. 529p. ; 22cm.

ISBN-13: 9789067183796

\$ 58.00 / PB

868 gm.

This volume brings together new scholarship by Indonesian and non-Indonesian scholars on Indonesia's cultural history from 1950 to 1965. During the new nation's first decade and a half, Indonesia's links with the world and its sense of nationhood were vigorously negotiated on the cultural front. Indonesia used cultural networks of the time, including those of the Cold War, to announce itself on the world stage. International links, postcolonial aspirations and nationalistic fervour interacted to produce a thriving cultural and intellectual life at home. Essays discuss the exchange of artists, intellectuals, writing and ideas between Indonesia and various countries; the development of cultural networks; and ways these networks interacted with and influenced cultural expression and discourse in Indonesia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141841>

Politics

Indonesia Rising : The Repositioning of Asia's Third Giant (PB) / Anthony Reid (Editor)

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2012

xxiv. 198p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814380393

1. Indonesia – Foreign Relations – Congresses
2. Indonesia – Foreign Economic Conditions – Congresses
3. Indonesia – Politics and Government – 1998- - Congresses
4. Indonesia – Economic Conditions – 1997- - Congresses
5. Climatic Changes – Indonesia - Congresses

\$ 20.90 /PB

338 gm.

There are reasons for thinking that this is at last Indonesia's moment on the world stage. Having successfully negotiated its difficult transition to democracy after 1998, Indonesia has held three popular elections with a low level of violence by the standards of southern Asia. Recently its economic growth rate has been high (above 6 per cent a year) and rising, where China's has been dropping and the developed world has been in crisis. Indonesia's admission in 2009 to the G20 club of the world's most influential states seemed to confirm a status implied by its size, as the world's fourth-largest country by population, and the largest with a Muslim majority. Some international pundits have been declaring that Indonesia is the new star to watch, and that its long-awaited moment in the sun may at last have arrived.

Those who know Indonesia well, like the experts writing in this book, are less easy to convince. In this volume they weigh the economic evidence (Ross Garnaut and M. Chatib Basri); the political equation between democracy and the massive obstacles to progress in corruption, inefficiency and legal inadequacies (Rizal Sukma and Donald K. Emmerson); and Indonesia's unrealized potential as a leader in matters environmental (Frank Jotzo) and Islamic (Martin van Bruinessen). The volume is rounded out by Scott Guggenheim's analysis of the potential for better performance in education, and by the longer-term considerations of Anthony Reid and R.E. Elson. Overall, the conclusion is one of cautious optimism, well aware of past disappointments.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141843>

Indonesia Rising : The Repositioning of Asia's Third Giant (HB) / Anthony Reid (Editor)
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2012

xxiv. 198p. ; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814380409

1. Indonesia – Foreign Relations – Congresses
2. Indonesia – Foreign Economic Conditions – Congresses
3. Indonesia – Politics and Government – 1998- - Congresses
4. Indonesia – Economic Conditions – 1997- - Congresses
5. Climatic Changes – Indonesia - Congresses

\$ 30.90 /HB

462 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141847>

Sociology

Countering MTV Influence in Indonesia and Malaysia / Kalinga Seneviratne
Singapore: ISEAS Publications, 2012

xxiii. 278p. ; 22cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814345231

1. Popular music – Indonesia
2. Popular music – Malaysia
3. Music television – Indonesia
4. Music television – Malaysia
5. Popular culture – Religious aspects – Islam – Indonesia
6. Popular culture – Religious aspects – Islam – Malaysia

\$ 52.90 / PB

338 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141849>

Questioning Modernity in Indonesia and Malaysia / Wendy Mee and Joel S. Kahn
Singapore: NUS Press in association with Kyoto University Press, 2012

vi. 257p. ; 23cm.

Includes bibliography references and index

ISBN-13: 9789971695637

1. Civilisation, Modern
2. Indonesia – Civilisation
3. Malaysia – Civilisation
4. Social change – Indonesia
5. Social change – Malaysia

Kyoto CSEAS Series on Asian Studies 5

\$ 32.00 / PB

388 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=141851>
