

COMMUNICATIONS

Editor, *Journal of Asian Studies*

I trust that Professor Millidge Walker will allow me to register a dissenting note concerning his review of Benedict R. O'G. Anderson's *Some Aspects of Indonesian Politics under the Japanese Occupation: 1944-1945* (*JAS* XXI, 4, pp. 563-64). His gracious reference to me as one of the specialists in the field encourages me to take this somewhat unusual step.

Without wishing to enter into a point-by-point discussion of some of your reviewer's specific criticisms, I find it difficult to agree with his overall assessment of the book. Perhaps he has been somewhat misled by the author's modesty and by the format of publication. True enough, Mr. Anderson lays no claim to finality, and he presents his paper in the "Interim Report Series" published by the Cornell Southeast Asia Program. But neither fact should obscure the author's very real achievement. Anderson has gone far beyond our earlier efforts in shedding light on the very complex period of Indonesian history in occupied Java (no

similar analysis is, by the way, possible for the other territories, for sheer lack of available documentation). Professor Walker creates the impression that Anderson's principal merit lies in using the Waseda Study Group's monograph on the occupation. In fact, he has used this monograph with as much intelligence as he has combed other data, both those used by his predecessors (and often with far greater insight) and others not previously available.

Your reviewer commences by bestowing the adjective "exhaustive" on the monograph under review but ends on a fairly critical note, blaming the author for lack of careful analysis. I have, on the contrary, found Anderson's power of analysis particularly impressive, and I believe that he has already made a considerable contribution to our understanding of the occupation era. I for one am anxiously looking forward to the fruits of his present research in Indonesia.

HARRY J. BENDA

Yale University