

In conclusion, this volume contains valuable field data and analyses, and is significant by virtue of its focus on World Heritage sites in Southeast Asia. Its limitations lie in the contributors' renunciation of innovative methodological, analytical and theoretical approaches to match the volume's regional concerns. This volume is also revealing about the dynamics of collective research projects supported by large grants, which have become the *modus operandi* of the British and European academe, as much as about its ostensible subject matter. Among the volume's fifteen contributors, nine are British or European, one a Japanese, and five Southeast Asian — only three of whom are the sole authors of their essays. Of course, this imbalance should not be overstated, for all the contributors have considerable familiarity with the region and some are even based there. It remains to be seen too how the analyses and practical recommendations in this volume will be received by Southeast Asian conservators, tourism entrepreneurs and policy-makers, who define and negotiate the meaning and value of heritage sites — whether or not they are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

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Indonesia

Historical dictionary of Indonesia; third edition

By AUDREY KAHIN

Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015. Pp. 724. Maps, Chronology, Appendices, Bibliography.

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The *Historical dictionary of Indonesia*, compiled by the noted Indonesianist Audrey Kahin is on its third edition, the first one being published in 1992 under the deft hands of another noted Indonesianist, Robert Cribb, and the second edition published in 2004, a collaboration between Cribb and Kahin. All three editions were under the editorship of Jon Woronoff, who has edited a series of Asian historical dictionaries, from East Timor and Nepal to India and the People's Republic of China. Aside from being an esteemed historian of Indonesia herself and significant other of another celebrated Indonesianist, George McTurnan Kahin, she had been the managing editor of the Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) Publications at Cornell University and editor of the important journal *Indonesia* from 1978 to 1995. She is now the executive director of the American Institute for Indonesian Studies and thus is exceptionally able to sense current interests in Indonesian studies along with extensive personal contacts of Indonesianists and Indonesians. This has been very telling in her choices regarding the dictionary entries.

Going solo in this latest instalment, Audrey Kahin continued Cribb's focus on post-1800 political and economic history, especially focusing on the later period of Indonesian history. This gives the dictionary a more contemporary presence, with a

focus on the *Reformasi* period (1998–present day), especially the developments during Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's presidency (2004–14) and the first three months of the Joko Widodo presidency in early 2014. The edition contains 12 black and white maps which very usefully illustrate political changes at the geographic level. It also manages to incorporate the significant political changes of the *Reformasi*, with an emphasis on decentralisation and shifting from Jakarta-focused to regional-focused events, and putting greater emphasis on the growing importance of political Islam in the post-Suharto period. The dictionary follows the contours of Indonesian nationalist history, with a heavy emphasis on the development of the nationalist movement, the state and its elites. This is no doubt due to Audrey Kahin's interest in political history. This emphasis reduces non-political entries; even entries on culture, for instance, are often selected based on their political importance. While Indonesian politics has been an important arbiter in the development of Indonesian society and culture, using this as a yardstick results in excluding less politically relevant developments or discussing cultural and social development within a political perspective.

As a result of the emphasis on following the contours of nationalist political history, the variety of possible entries on colonial society, minorities or other more 'obscure' cultural or social topics are restricted. For instance, the Abbreviations, to use a proxy, contain only 21 colonial acronyms out of 274 on the list. The vast majority of acronyms are related to the state and to more recent Indonesian political history, including East Timor. Entries on pop and traditional culture and developments in music, literature or television are sparse. The special emphasis on Islam is understandable, considering that Indonesia is the largest Muslim nation, yet Buddhism is lumped together in the Hindu–Buddhist entry, despite both religions having had significant roles in Indonesian history. Many of the entries on the Netherlands Indies were chosen in relation to the nationalist movement. This limits the possible entries that are out there about issues that are not related with the nationalist movements, for instance in regional or urban history during the colonial period. There is little in the way of important 'non-political' colonial actors like Herman Thomas Karsten or Henry Maclaine Pont, both noted as significant figures by present-day Indonesian urban historians, architects and town planners. The appendices are extremely interesting and important, providing the lists of Indonesian traditional leaders, the governor generals of the Netherlands Indies, the cabinets of the Republic, and the heads of the armed forces. The appendices again focus on political history; there is no list on the economy, culture or society. Of the twelve maps that are included in this edition, only two were non-political: a map on the main geological features and a map on ethnic distribution of the archipelago.

The dictionary is thus more useful and interesting for those focusing on the political history of Indonesia, especially the more recent postcolonial and *Reformasi* political history. It is, just a smidge, possibly less interesting for people who are into more specific non-political aspects of Indonesian history. Beginners in Indonesian history will find that the *Dictionary* provides extremely useful general knowledge, but those interested in more specific topics will need to turn to other sources. This limitation is, of course, understandable. One dictionary cannot incorporate everything about the history of Indonesia. It does, however, provide a glimpse of what is currently considered as important topics within (American?) Indonesian studies,

thus functioning also as a record to be used by future historians. Yet, it underscores the need to develop dictionaries that have multiple inputs from experts of various fields and periods. Such a dictionary would require a much larger number of entries and thus perhaps make important the transition from printed to digitally published material, as a more accessible and nuanced form for a future dictionary of Indonesian history.

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Indonesia's ascent: Power, leadership, and the regional order

Edited by CHRISTOPHER B. ROBERTS, AHMAD D. HABIR and LEONARD C. SEBASTIAN
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Indonesia's role in the international arena has strengthened and expanded in the last fifteen years, as sustained economic growth and a stable democracy have propelled its rise to the ranks of a more assertive regional power. While there is consensus on Indonesia's potential to further consolidate its status in the region and beyond, Indonesia's increasing activism is not fully understood, especially with regard to its role in regional integration in Southeast Asia and its relations with key global players such as China and the United States.

The edited book under review, featuring chapters by 19 experts mainly based in Australian and Singaporean academia, aims to address these open questions with an analysis of the 'domestic and international issues and consequences associated with Indonesia's ascent' (p. 3). After an introduction in which some conceptual and theoretical issues are discussed, a brief history of Indonesia's foreign policy from independence to the New Order lays the foundations for subsequent contributions. Chapter 3 opens the analysis of domestic factors in Indonesia's rise by looking at patterns of economic development, with a particular emphasis on macroeconomic and fiscal outcomes. Chapter 4 offers an informative account of the role of Islam in Indonesian political discourse, arguing that it has provided an important source of political stability in democratic Indonesia, and Chapter 5 speculates on possible internal security challenges after the abatement of the ethnic and secessionist violence that characterised the first years of democracy. Finally, Chapter 6 reviews various issues related to democratic consolidation in Indonesia, identifying the weakness of political parties as a key challenge for political stability.

After these four chapters on domestic developments in post-authoritarian Indonesia, the focus of the book shifts to the international stage. Chapters 7 and 8 introduce Indonesia's international security and foreign policies, outlining the key trends unfolding in these two fields over the last decade. Chapter 9 studies Indonesia's engagement with selected international institutions, and the following chapters focus on bilateral relations with Australia (Chapters 10 and 11) and