

Indonesia: A Country Study (Area Handbook Series)

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Reviews of Books

especially Aceh and Johore, and the Portuguese never had enough military resources to gain full control over the Straits. Hence, the Dutch, learning from the Portuguese experience, carefully weighed the expected costs and benefits and decided that their commitment in the area should be more moderate than the earlier commitment of the Portuguese.

These are some of the central arguments that can be derived from Lewis's monograph. They make much sense but they are based on a selection of factors and not really on a full picture. While Johore, Siak, Selangor and other ports near Malacca are looked at in great detail, Aceh's position, the northwestern access to the Straits, and the nature of the vast network run by the Buginese do not emerge very clearly. One would also like to know more about the frequency and size of China's junk trade and of Indian as well as Portuguese shipments through the Straits. Taking the latter as an example, useful statistics on Portuguese shipping arrivals to Malacca may be found in G. B. Souza's *Survival of Empire* (Cambridge, 1986); one wishes that this type of information had been integrated into Lewis's book. Another point concerns the social setting. The Portuguese element did not disappear from Malacca after 1641. The Catholic Church remained active. What effects did this have on Malacca's domestic situation and external relations? To what degree did local Portuguese and Macau-based country traders support Malacca's gradual revival in the second part of the seventeenth century? Perhaps, Lewis should have made it clear that these and other questions were of no concern in the preparation of this monograph.

On the whole, however, Lewis's work is well-organized and easy to read. It is strong in all matters related to Dutch politics and Johore. It may serve as a fine introduction to a very complex theme and, at the same time, it will also be useful to the specialist who wishes to know more about the politically fragmented world of the Malay peninsula in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries – frequently, though not always seen through the eyes of the Dutch. It contains three short appendices, one with figures for Malacca's overall income and expenditure. There is also a reliable index and a long bibliography. Some titles do not appear in the bibliography, usually more recent works on Malacca's history – for example, M. Dunn's *Kampung Malakka* (1984), Brian Harrison's *Holding the Fort* (1985), S. H. Hoyt's *Old Malacca* (1993), and so on – but these omissions do not lower the value of the book which is beautifully written and carefully printed and which, in fact, may be recommended to everyone interested in Malaysia's early modern period.

RODERICH PTAK

INDONESIA: A COUNTRY STUDY. Edited by WILLIAM H. FREDERICK and ROBERT L. WORDEN. (Area Handbook Series, 550–39.) pp. xlix, 462, illus., 18 maps and figs. Washington DC, Federal Research Division Library of Congress, 1993. Fifth edition.

This new edition of the Area Handbook volume on Indonesia replaces the 1983 edition edited by Frederica M. Bunge. It is issued at a time when, according to the editor, it became clear that "Soeharto critics and supporters alike would . . . find it necessary to reassess the way they viewed and understood Indonesia". He notes the enigma of Indonesia in the minds of foreign commentators. Whilst there are many critics of all aspects of the country since the 1965 coup, yet it has to be admitted that there has been unexpected economic development and a degree of stability that is not just the product of heavy coercion.

The main research was completed by November 1992, which saw the disbanding of the IGDI in March of that year as an important marker in modern Indonesian history. There is additional material up to October 1993 so that the book was not published until after the confirmation of Soeharto for a sixth term as President and the announcement of his new cabinet. The prospect of Try Sutrisno, the army leader who is now Vice-President, succeeding as President during this term is mentioned, as

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