

Editor's Foreword

When the first edition of this volume appeared just over a decade ago, it would have seemed almost pointless to ask in which direction Indonesia would turn. Everything seemed perfectly clear. It had a political regime that was, if anything, too stable and an economy that was moving smartly ahead toward a secure status as a newly industrialized country. But now, with the damage caused by the Asian financial crisis and the uncertainty since the fall of Suharto, there are many questions to answer: political, economic, social, and even religious. Will democracy take hold this time, or will instability reign (unless the army intervenes again)? Will industrialization continue and supplement weaker agricultural and mining sectors, and will the states leave more room for private enterprise? Will the many peoples, regions, and classes come together or splinter further? Will Islam cohabit comfortably with other religions, or will the appeal (or fear) of an Islamic state be too strong? This book cannot provide the answers, but it can certainly elucidate the questions and give some idea of where Indonesia is headed at present. So it is of much greater interest for all those concerned about Indonesia, the Indonesians first and foremost, followed by the rest of Southeast Asia and the broader world as well.

This second edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Indonesia* has been thoroughly updated and considerably expanded, partly to round out its overall coverage, and very much also to include information about the many things that have occurred meanwhile. It has a double advantage in examining Indonesia as a country but also looking closely at its numerous components, without which nothing makes sense. Thus, while the chronology and introduction help us see the overall thrust, some of the most useful dictionary entries deal with the specific ethnic groups, islands, and regions, giving their history prior to the creation of the state of Indonesia and even prior to Dutch colonization. Others present the most notable leaders of all

periods and important aspects of politics, economics, and social, cultural, and religious life. The bibliography, which is also expanded and updated, has the additional advantage of relating specific works to specific entries, so readers know where to seek further information. And the list of acronyms and abbreviations is virtually indispensable.

This book is the result of a joint effort. It is based on an excellent and much-admired first edition by Robert Cribb, who has written widely about Indonesian history and politics; was professor of Southeast Asian history at the University of Queensland in St. Lucia, Australia; and is now at Australian National University. It has been updated and expanded, while maintaining much of the original text, by Audrey Kahin, who was managing editor of Southeast Asia Publications at Cornell University and coeditor, and then editor, of *Indonesia*. She has also written extensively on Indonesia, including several books, and is presently a freelance editor and writer.

What they both obviously share is an intense interest in the country, where they have traveled frequently and widely, and an ability to convey this interest to others. That may explain why this book is, among other things, written in a style that can be easily read by students while including a wealth of information that is not readily available elsewhere, and certainly not in such an accessible form.

Jon Woronoff

Series Editor