

A HISTORY OF MODERN INDONESIA

Although Indonesia has the fourth largest population in the world, its history is still relatively unfamiliar and understudied. Adrian Vickers takes the reader on a journey across the social and political landscape of modern Indonesia, starting with the country's origins under the Dutch in the early twentieth century, and the subsequent anti-colonial revolution which led to independence in 1949. Thereafter the spotlight is on the 1950s, a crucial period in the formation of Indonesia as a new nation, which was followed by the Sukarno years, and the anti-Communist massacres of the 1960s when General Suharto took over as president. The concluding chapters chart the fall of Suharto's New Order after thirty-two years in power, and the subsequent political and religious turmoil which culminated in the Bali bombings in 2002. Drawing on insights from literature, art and anthropology, Vickers portrays a complex and resilient people struggling out of a troubled past.

ADRIAN VICKERS is Professor of Asian Studies at the University of Wollongong. He is author of the acclaimed *Bali: a Paradise Created* (1989), as well as many other scholarly and popular works on Indonesia.

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University of Wollongong



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A note on spelling, pronunciation and names

Indonesian has gone through several different spelling systems, and there is generally great inconsistency between public uses of these systems. For the sake of simplicity I have generally used the spelling system introduced in 1972, although Pramoedya prefers the Dutch-era ‘oe’ instead of ‘u’ in the spelling of his name, likewise Dr Djelantik prefers the pre-1972 ‘dj’ instead of ‘j’.

Syllables in Indonesian words are generally pronounced with even weight; ‘a’ is pronounced like the English ‘u’ in ‘up’; ‘e’ is usually pronounced like English ‘step’ or ‘a’ in ‘day’; ‘i’ is pronounced as in ‘hid’; ‘u’ is pronounced like ‘o’ in ‘do’; ‘c’ is pronounced like English ‘ch’; ‘sy’ is pronounced ‘sh’. Javanese is transcribed variably in the sources used, the ‘a’ is more like Danish ‘å’, and so is usually rendered as ‘o’, but inconsistently (e.g. ‘Ronggowarsito’).

Although many Indonesians have adopted the use of family names or surnames, there is a great deal of variation in personal names in Indonesia. Some people have only one name, such as Suharto and Sukarno. Many names also incorporate titles, such as the Sumatran aristocratic title Sutan in Sutan Syahrir’s name. It is quite common to change names at different stages in life, as when Suwardi Suryaningrat changed his name to Ki Hajar Dewantoro at the age of forty. Many people are known by abbreviated names for simplicity, as with Abdurrahman Wahid, known as ‘Gus Dur’, which combines a Javanese familiar title, ‘Gus’ (short for Gusti but sometimes Agus or Bagus), and an abbreviation of his main name.

Chronology

1870	Beginning of a 'Liberal Policy' of deregulated exploitation of the Netherlands East Indies
1873	Beginning of the Aceh War
1888	Founding of the packet steam-ship line <i>KPM</i>
1890	World depression
1894	Lombok War
1898	General van Heutsz becomes chief-of-staff of Aceh campaign Wilhelmina becomes queen of the Netherlands
1901	Ethical Policy proclaimed
1903	Aceh declared conquered
1904	Van Heutsz made Governor General
1907	Raden Mas Tirto Adhi Suryo founds civil servants' association <i>Sarekat Priyayi</i>
1908	Budi Utomo proclaimed as first official nationalist movement Last Balinese rulers to resist Dutch rule wiped out in battle to the death
1911	Founding by Tirto Adhi Suryo of the Islamic Traders' League
1912	Islamic League (<i>Sarekat Islam</i>) becomes first mass-based nationalist party
1914	World War One, the Netherlands is a neutral country in the war
1917	East Indies trade with Europe cut off by the war Russian Revolution
1918	Death of Tirto Adhi Suryo
1920	Founding of the Communist Party of the Indies (<i>PKI</i>) Economic downturn
1925	Birth of Pramoedya Ananta Toer Sharp rise in world commodity prices brings prosperity to the Indies
1929	Great Depression

Chronology

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- 1930 Sukarno's famous nationalist speech, 'Indonesia Accuses', given as defence in his political trial
- 1940 Germany invades the Netherlands
- 1941 8 December, US naval base at Pearl Harbor bombed by Japanese
- 1942 Japan invades the Netherlands East Indies
- 1945 15 August, Japan surrenders
 17 August, Sukarno and Hatta proclaim Indonesia's independence, signalling the beginning of the Indonesian Revolution
 10 November, Battle of Surabaya
- 1946 Social revolutions, including Three Regions (*Tiga Daerah*) Revolt
 Republican capital established in Yogyakarta
 Federal states set up by Dutch in outer islands
- 1947 25 March, Linggajati agreement, first ceasefire
 20 July, first Police Action
- 1948 Abdication of Queen Wilhelmina
 19 January, Renville Agreement, Van Mook line established between Republican and Dutch territories
 August, fall of Amir Syarifuddin government
 18 September, Madiun Affair
 December, second police action, fall of Yogyakarta to the Dutch, execution of Amir Syarifuddin by Republicans
- 1949 February, execution of Tan Malaka by Republican Army
 1 August, official ceasefire
 December, Dutch forced to take part in Round Table Agreement
 27 December, Indonesia achieves full sovereignty
- 1950 Federal states dissolve and Indonesia becomes a unitary Republic
 Korean War brings high prices for rubber and other Indonesian commodities
- 1955 First national elections
- 1957 State of war and siege declared, beginning of Guided Democracy
 Dutch enterprises nationalised
- 1962–3 Irian Jaya (West New Guinea) campaign
- 1963–5 Confrontation with Malaysia
- 1965 '30th September Movement' 'Coups' (*Gestapu*) leads to the death of 500,000–1 million people identified as Communists

- 1966 Sukarno hands over power to Suharto through the 11 March Declaration (*Supersemar*), beginning of the New Order regime
- 1969 'Act of Free Choice' legitimises Indonesia's control over Irian Jaya
- 1970 Death of Sukarno
- 1971 First New Order election
- 1974 15 January upheavals (*Malari*) end the New Order's 'honeymoon' period
 Pertamina Affair
- 1975 Invasion of East Timor
- 1977 National election
 'Normalisation' of university campuses programme
- 1982 National election
- 1983 Mysterious killings (*Petrus*)
- 1984 Tanjung Priok Affair involving killings of Muslims in Jakarta
 Clamp-down on Islamic political leaders
- 1987 National election
- 1989 'Openness' campaign announced
 Establishment of Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals' Association, *ICMI*
- 1992 National election
- 1994 Press bans end 'Openness'
- 1996 Death of Tien Suharto
 Attack on Megawati's faction of the *PDI*
 Bre-X or Busang gold mine scandal
- 1997 Asian financial crisis and drought
 National election
- 1998 21 May, fall of Suharto, replaced by B. J. Habibie
- 1999 Legislation to create regional autonomy
 National election
 Referendum leads to political violence and the independence of East Timor
 Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur) becomes president
- 2001 Abdurrahman Wahid resigns
 Megawati Sukarnoputri becomes president
- 2004 National election followed by first direct presidential election
 Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) becomes president
 26 December, tsunami