

ROBERT CRIBB, *Historical Dictionary of Indonesia*. (Asian Historical Dictionaries, No. 9). Metuchen, N.J. and New York: The Scarecrow Press, Inc. 1991. 688 pages, US\$ 72.50. ISBN 0-8108-2542-2

Robert Cribb, well known among experts on Indonesian history for his meticulous research on Jakarta during the Indonesian Revolution, published in 1991 under the somewhat sensational title "Gangsters and Revolutionaries: The Jakarta People's Militia and the Indonesian Revolution 1945-1949", has done a Herculean task in compiling this dictionary of Indonesian history. Next to the 502 pages of entries in alphabetical order, which will concern us presently, the book contains a lot of other valuable information, from an eighteen page guide through the abundance of Indonesian abbreviations and acronyms to a chronology of 25 pages and a section of 12 maps about different periods of Indonesian history. There are also statistical accounts of governments from the beginning of Dutch rule to the fifth "Pembangunan-Kabinet" under Suharto (1988-1992), a list of Indonesian office holders (important ministers and army commanders) and election results.

Furthermore, Cribb has produced a bibliography on Indonesia's past and present which ranks among the best I have ever seen. It comprises 1172 titles, divided into 50 sections and subsections covering the most important scholarly work on Indonesia during the last hundred years or so. Cribb is aware that even this "is only a selection from a much larger body of writings" (p. 543). Many of the works which he has selected are classics in their fields, some of them perhaps outdated but still influential, most of the titles are standards in a variety of disciplines, others are included because there is nothing else available or because they nicely summarize the state of the art in their field. The result is a truly representative mixture of studies on Indonesia with one important limitation, however: it is restricted to works published in English, with a few additions in Dutch and French. Cribb is aware that substantial works have been produced in other languages, but the readers are expected to understand English. If scholars of other countries need one further push to publish in English they might find it here: books or articles not written in English are, like in many other bibliographies, simply ignored.

Returning to the dictionary section of the book, one is struck by the wealth of information particularly in the entries on political and economic history. If one misses an important event or the name of a personality as a separate entry, one will, thanks to the cross-references, most likely discover it under a related entry somewhere else in the book.

Another help for the reader are the references for further reading. One can, now and then, argue whether the recommendation given is the best of all choices mentioned in the bibliography. But because of the many subsections the reader has easy access to other titles.

Alongside political events, parties, tribal communities etc. specific scholarly terms such as *abangan*, "Agricultural Involution", "Ethical Policy" find due attention as do geographical names. Who of the Indonesian experts knows, for instance, that Irian, the Indonesian name for West New Guinea is derived from a Biak phrase meaning "shimmering land"? This explanation is followed by a concise but revealing discussion of the history and the dispute over this Indonesian province in the east. The development of the conflict in the context of the national integration of East Timor, the former Portuguese colony in Indonesia, finds even more attention. This discussion is very balanced and well documented and thus aids better understanding of the position of the parties involved in the conflict.

Not all recent developments in Indonesia are reported in such detail as these. On the contrary, one has the impression that the author feels, in general, more at home when discussing items of the colonial period. Whereas he relates, for instance, on three full pages, the evolution of educational policy under the Dutch (pp. 140ff., entry "education") he has only very little to say about education in modern Indonesia (p. 144). Or, if one looks for information on Indonesian literature, this is also not easily found. The pioneer movement of the Pudjangga Baru is only mentioned under "Jassin", the literary group around Gelanggang is only alluded to under "Generations". Chairil Anwar, Rendra, Pramudya Ananta Tur, as outstanding poets of modern Indonesia, are mentioned in separate entries (Sanusi Pané and Sitor Situmorang are not), but one has to know their names already in order to get some information on literary developments.

Of course, a dictionary on Indonesian history cannot contain detailed information on everything. But education and literature are important additions to political history. Therefore a few more items in this field might well be included if the book were to be re-edited. One should then also enclose more specific terms of Indonesian society. Entries on *banjar*, *dukun*, *jago*, *satriya*, *subak*, for instance, are missing. Instead one finds a wealth of particulars about Indonesian plants, such as Amomum, Amorphophalus, Aren or Rafflesia, Rami, Rasamola or Rosella etc. Students of Indonesian history would, no doubt, trade these entries for some more information in the fields mentioned above.

But, side from these suggestions, the Dictionary is an important contribution to a better understanding of Indonesian developments, for laymen and students of Indonesia alike. It is informative and balanced in its judgements and in some aspects, particular as regards the bibliography, it is better than noted monographs on modern Indonesian history.

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DIRK KAMM, *Thailand auf dem Weg zum Industriestaat? Probleme und Perspektiven des Strukturwandels der thailändischen Wirtschaft in den 80er Jahren*. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, 206). Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 1992. 182 pp. DM 28.-. ISBN 3-88910-101-1.

Thailand has experienced rapid economic growth in recent years. With a per capita income of nearly 1.700 US \$ and the manufacturing sector's share of the GDP approaching 25 percent, Thailand is now on the threshold to becoming a NIC. Kamm's book is an attempt to review Thailand's modern economic history, although the focus of analysis is clearly on the last decade, when the Kingdom's economy advanced in quantum leaps. Kamm examines the underlying planning and decision-making processes that propelled this rapid growth. He portrays a top-heavy, centralized and bureaucratized planning machinery which succeeded in producing impressive economic growth, but at the same time must be held responsible for serious deficiencies such as the rapidly widening social and regional inequities.

Another chapter studies the political and societal developments born of the economic change. Although the author sets out to explore the influences that major societal groups exert on the government's economic policies, the readers misses concrete examples of how major economic interest groups are interlinked with politics and how this affects economic strategies, economic growth, income distribution and the political power equation. (The seminal works of Riggs, Hewison and Suehiro can illustrate the interlinkage).

Another key chapter deals with the major external and internal forces that shaped Thailand's economy during the 1980s. As far as the internal factors are concerned, major consideration is given to rural development, the industrial sector and the financial aspects of economic growth.