

SECURITY *and* SOUTHEAST ASIA

DOMESTIC,
REGIONAL, AND
GLOBAL ISSUES

ALAN COLLINS

SECURITY AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Domestic, Regional,
and Global Issues

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Preface

This book follows another I wrote on Southeast Asia back in 1999. In that book—*The Security Dilemmas of Southeast Asia*—I was concerned with developing the concept of the security dilemma, using Southeast Asia as a case study. Once it was completed, I was keen to cast my net wider to examine the variety of security issues that bedevil this region. I also wanted to engage in the debates taking place within the field of security studies itself, particularly with regard to the broadening and deepening of what the field encompasses. Finally, having written two books aimed specifically at an audience of specialists, I wanted to write something that would be accessible to undergraduates as well. This book is the result.

The book is not a state-by-state account of military doctrine (a traditional approach), nor does it cover all the nontraditional security issues, which include people-smuggling, international crime, and AIDS. I do, though, attempt to apply the concept of security in its varied manifestations to Southeast Asia and thereby to reveal not only the range of security matters in the region, but also the complexity of what security itself means.

When I was nearing the final draft of my previous book in early 1998, the wide-ranging impact of the Asian financial/economic crisis was just beginning to be appreciated. I was suddenly left having to time-restrict certain findings and to adjust others in the light of reactions to the crisis—the fall of Suharto and the notion of flexible engagement being prime examples—delaying the book by at least a year. And now again, a major event in the world, one with tragic consequences, has led me to adjust a book manuscript: September 11. I had always intended to conclude this book with illustrative case studies. The first case was, and still

is, the South China Sea dispute. The second was to be East Timor, illustrating the failure of Indonesian nation building and providing an initial assessment of East Timor's nation-building approach. This has been replaced by a discussion of the "War on Terrorism," in which Southeast Asia is apparently the second front—as illustrated all too clearly by the bombing in Bali.

* * *

There are of course many people and institutions to thank for helping me to write this book; they have provided the financial, intellectual, and emotional support without which the work could not have been accomplished. I am again indebted to the British Academy and its Committee for South East Asian Studies for their financial support, which enabled me to spend ten weeks in Singapore in late 2002 as I was putting the finishing touches to the manuscript. While in Singapore, I was a visiting fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) at Nanyang Technological University and used the library facilities at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). There are a number of people to thank at IDSS for their help. The entire staff made me feel welcome and created a supportive environment in which to work. A number deserve special thanks in this regard: Ralf Emmers and Tan See Seng, for commenting on earlier drafts and providing useful feedback; Helen Nesadurai and Evelyn Goh, for help on economic and environmental details, respectively; Yee Ming, for helping me locate numerous articles held in a multitude of databases; and Peter Ee, for helping to arrange all of the paperwork and accommodation. I am also grateful to Mark Hong for inviting me to attend the RUSI-IDSS conference on the "New Security Environment After 9/11." All in all I could not have wished to be in a better environment to complete the research.

I want to thank my own Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Wales Swansea for providing an intellectual home and financial assistance. I am also indebted to the anonymous reviewer who provided insightful and thought-provoking comments that certainly helped to clarify issues in my mind and improve the text.

Two friends deserve special thanks: in the UK, Helen Brocklehurst, for always making me laugh, often unintentionally; and Patrik Wahlberg, for his companionship while in Singapore (our unnerving visit to Bintan a couple of weeks before the Bali bombing brought home the enormity of the tasks facing the Jakarta regime as it tries to resurrect Indonesia).

Finally, my thanks to my parents, who provided wonderful support during a time in my life that witnessed much change.

All of these people have had a role in making this book possible, and I am grateful for their time and patience.

Alan Collins