

## NATIONS AND STATES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

This reflective and provocative book outlines the emergence of the nation-states of modern Southeast Asia. It considers various ways of looking at Southeast Asian history, combining narrative, analysis and discussion. The book focuses mainly on the period from the eighteenth century to the present. It is divided into three sections: the first gives a broad historical overview of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, The Philippines, Burma/Myanmar, Vietnam and Siam/Thailand; the second reflects, in a comparative context, on significant problems in understanding Southeast Asia's past and present; the third explores the current state of writing Southeast Asian history. Underlying the discussion is an awareness of how ongoing tensions between East and West shape history and frame the present. This book reflects a lifetime's scholarship and will become a major interpretative synthesis of modern Southeast Asia.

Nicholas Tarling was Professor of History at the University of Auckland from 1968 to 1997. He edited the two-volume *Cambridge History of Southeast Asia*, published in 1992, and wrote *Britain, Southeast Asia and the Onset of the Pacific War*, published by Cambridge in 1996. He was the founder president of the New Zealand Asian Studies Society and is currently a Fellow of the New Zealand Asia Institute at the University of Auckland.

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For Brook Barrington