

SOUTH-EAST ASIA
FROM COLONIALISM
TO INDEPENDENCE

H. H. HALL

1955

South-East Asia from Colonialism to Independence

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Preface

The present volume deals with the process of decolonization in South-East Asia. As its starting-point 1940 has been chosen, the year Japan entered the area and also the first year of the most decisive period in South-East Asia's development from foreign rule to national emancipation. The book ends with the termination of traditional Western colonial domination.

The latter may seem quite an unwieldy criterion, since it entails breaking off the story on various dates, ranging from 4 July 1946 for the Philippines to 3 July 1959 for Singapore. As the struggle for political freedom constitutes the main theme of this book, it is reasonable, however, not to proceed beyond these limits.

There are a few exceptions to the general rules set by the subject theme and the chronological scheme. One is that several events are not discussed in any great detail when, by their nature, they belong to the next period rather than to the one in which they were taking place. On the other hand the story of political decolonization is not dealt with until its conclusion, that is: 1963 for British Borneo, 1963 or 1965 for Singapore, let alone the year *x* for Brunei or Timor, since the connexions with post-independence developments in neighbouring countries, particularly Malaya, are so close that it cannot possibly be treated as a separate subject.

As a result this book may create the impression of being incomplete and in a sense this is, of course, true. But so is the course of history. The only conclusion that might be drawn is that, in due time, a second volume may pick up the loose ends and bring the story up-to-date.

My thanks are due to Miss Jesse Bos who was kind enough to do the indexing.

Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 1964-66
Soest, Netherlands, 1967-70

JAN PLUVIER

