

GEOGRAPHIES FOR ADVANCED STUDY
EDITED BY PROFESSOR S. H. BEAVER, M.A.

MALAYA, INDONESIA, BORNEO
AND THE PHILIPPINES

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MALAYA, INDONESIA, BORNEO, AND THE PHILIPPINES

*A Geographical, Economic, and Political
description of Malaya, the East Indies, and
the Philippines*

BY

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TRANSLATOR'S FOREWORD

Monsieur Robequain's book fills a gap in the previously existing descriptions of important regions of the world. No excuse is needed for producing an English edition. For centuries the East Indies have attracted interest in Europe as a source of economic products, as a kind of fairyland to the romantic, and as a field of investigation for the naturalist. The last seventy years have seen the islands become the most important part of the tropical and equatorial world and assume a leading rôle in the production of rubber, tin, sugar, tobacco, vegetable oil, fibres, and other valuable commodities. The rising tide of Japanese ambition brought the region into the political arena, and the war of 1941-5 together with the subsequent Communist activities has made it one of the danger spots to world peace. The volume contains a comprehensive description of the natural layout of the region, its economic and cultural development, and the political setting and trends. The author, who has read widely in his subject and has a first-hand knowledge of parts of the region, is well qualified for the great task he has undertaken in compiling the book. He shows himself particularly interested in the results of the impact of various civilisations on the inhabitants of the region and in comparing the effects of the British, Dutch, and American colonial systems. The rapid course of recent events has made a great deal of revision necessary.

I have to thank Monsieur Robequain for the detailed care he has taken in reading my translation.

CHOLSEY, BERKSHIRE.

E. D. L.

AUTHOR'S FOREWORD TO THE SECOND EDITION

The text has been revised mainly with the help of Dr. C. D. Cowan of the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London. This help has been especially valuable in Chapters I and V. For this I owe him grateful thanks. I am deeply grateful to Dr. E. D. Laborde for the elegance and closeness to the original of his translation and for the judicious corrections suggested by him. My thanks also go to Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. for the care they have devoted to the English editions of my work.

C.R.