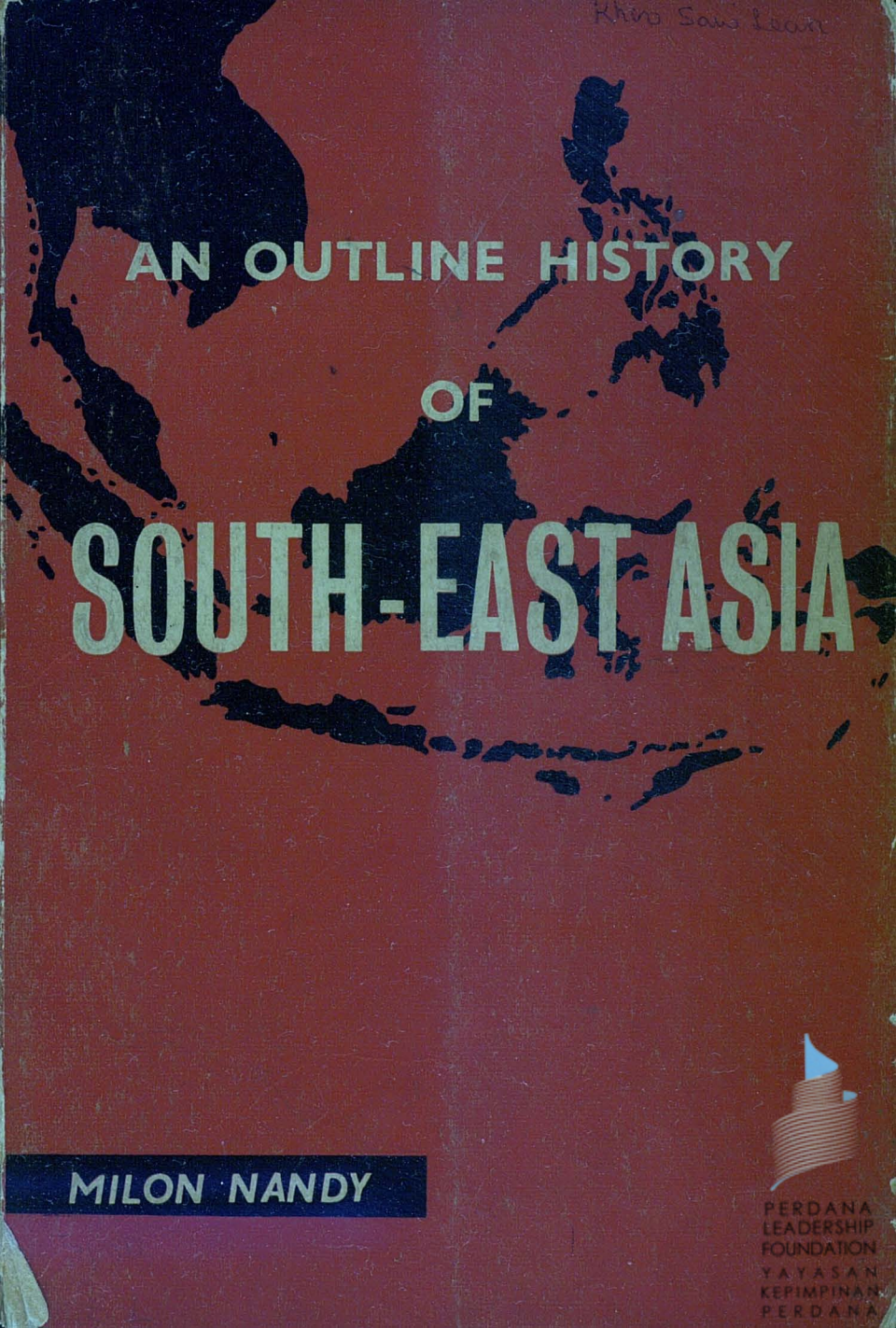


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AN OUTLINE HISTORY
OF
SOUTH-EAST ASIA

MILON NANDY



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The lack of history books on South-East Asia for the young student has caused much frustration not only among students but also among teachers of history in the schools in Malaysia and Singapore. This book has been written to meet the special needs of students preparing for Section B of the History Paper in the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. In so restricted a compass the book is, of course, incomplete; but sufficient information has been included to provide the essential background to the understanding of the problems of South-East Asia today.

The author, who has taught history in the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate classes in schools in Malaya and Singapore for more than a decade and has written several other history books, describes the great movements that have affected the development of the nations in this region, in a manner that is easy to understand.

It is hoped that this book, though intended for the School Certificate student, may be useful also to the Higher School Certificate student as well as the general reader.



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AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA

by
MILON NANDY
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PREFACE

Based on the latest History Syllabus on South-East Asia, of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, this book aims to provide young students with a common starting-point in their studies of South-East Asia.

It is indeed a difficult task to present the history of South-East Asia within the space of a small book, such as this, and to make the story at the same time attractive and useful to students. Therefore, only the general sweep of the great current of events has been followed, and only the salient features that contributed most to the development of the nations in this region have been included.

In preparing this book, I have relied on my long experience as a history teacher up to the H.S.C. level. I have also drawn freely on the fruits of the research of various scholars of different nationalities, as presented in their many valuable contributions to the topics dealt with in this book; and my debt to them is great. I must also express my appreciation to Mr. P. Mahadevan and my brothers and sisters for the invaluable assistance that they have given in preparing the manuscript, and for suggesting improvements.

MILON NANDY



To DOLLY



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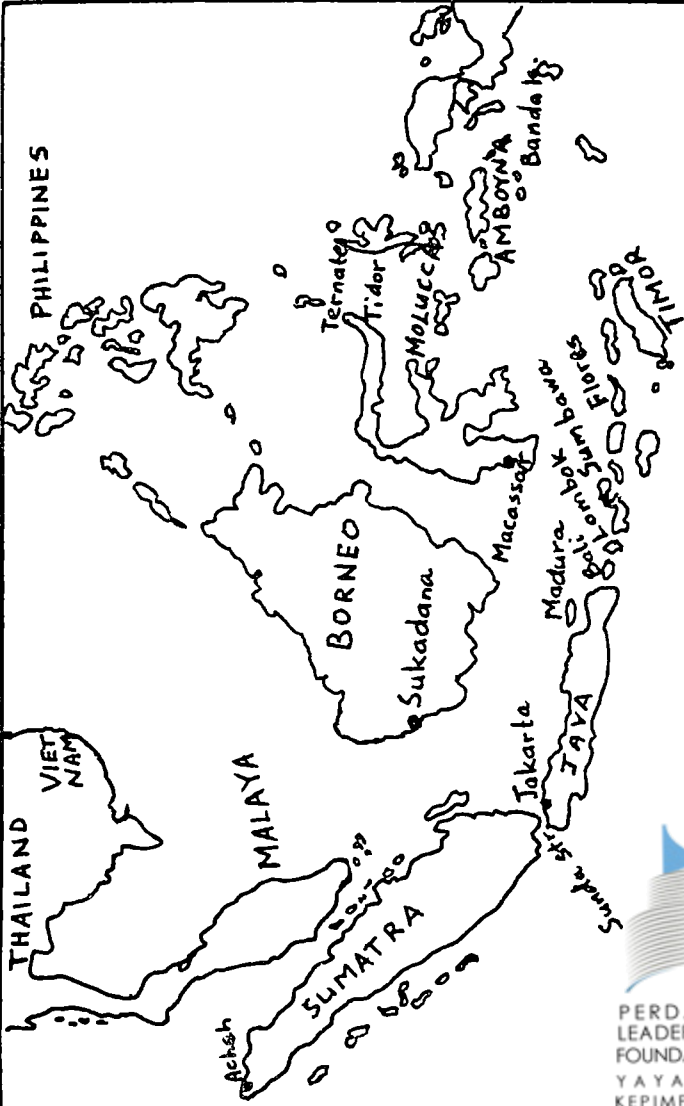
CHAPTER ONE

ACHEH IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Situated at the north-eastern end of Sumatra, the state of Aceh began to expand its power in the sixteenth century. This state had been created by Ali Mughayat Shah, who, before his death in 1530, had gained control of the pepper ports of Pedir and Pasai. The political ambitions of Aceh finally brought it into conflict with the Portuguese as well as Johore, where a new sultanate had been established by Ala'uddin, a son of Mahmud, the last Sultan of Malacca, which fell to the Portuguese in 1511.

Inspired by commercial as well as religious motives, the Portuguese were the first Europeans to take an active interest in the affairs of South-East Asia. Having established themselves in Malacca, they tried to establish a foothold in Sumatra as well, in order to gain control of the Straits of Malacca. But from Johore, Sultan Mahmud, who had been driven out by the Portuguese, and his successors continued to attack the Portuguese.

Meanwhile, Aceh had been growing in strength and it began to extend its control down the Sumatran coast. As a result, it soon came into conflict with the Portuguese, who secured much of their pepper trade from there. Aceh also incurred the hatred of Johore which held suzerainty over some states in Sumatra. And, within a few years, Aceh and Johore began to contest for leadership of the Malay



South-East Asia



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