

**Southeast Asia and the Road
to Global Peace with Islam**

THE NEXT FRONT

**Senator Christopher S. Bond
and Lewis M. Simons**

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If you think the next front in the fight against global terrorism is in Pakistan or Afghanistan, this book will startle you. Four-term U.S. Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond and veteran foreign correspondent Lewis M. Simons reveal that the next front is taking shape right now in a part of the world most Americans haven’t thought about since the Vietnam war: Southeast Asia.

Bond and Simons demonstrate compellingly that by beginning in Southeast Asia the Obama administration can reverse the devastating effects of failed policies throughout the Islamic community. The key is a new “smart power” approach, one that combines the “soft” tools of diplomatic, economic, and personal outreach with the fallback “hard” option of military force.

Southeast Asia is home to one of the greatest concentrations of Muslims on Earth. More Muslims live in Indonesia alone than in the entire Middle East. Historically, they have been religious moderates. But today, Islamic fundamentalism and anti-Americanism are on the rise, fueled by the United States’ intimate alliance with Israel, its invasion of Iraq, the Abu Ghraib torture scandal, and the Guantanamo Bay imprisonments. These have provoked outrage and provided seemingly irrefutable evidence of America’s universal disregard for Muslims.

While this picture is bleak, the central theme of *The Next Front* is that it is not too late for the United States to turn the rising tide of Islamic fundamentalism in Southeast Asia.

Americans rarely pay serious attention to other nations until they suddenly perceive them to be a threat. Then they find themselves woefully lacking in information and understanding. Hoping to avoid that recurring flaw, Bond and Simons invite readers to travel with them through Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, meeting people at all levels of society. Drawing on their decades of experience, they speak with—and, more importantly, listen to—presidents and

(continued on back flap)





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PUSTAKA PERDANA



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To my wife, Linda, for encouraging me to put my ideas in a book, and for her constant encouragement and support without which this book would never have happened

and

To my son, Sam, whom I regard as my hero for his service in Iraq, and whose reports from the field as a Marine ground intelligence officer convinced me that we needed a smart power strategy.

—CSB

To Carol

and

to Eleanor, Jonah, Nathaniel, Noah, and Sophie,
in the hope that your world will be smarter.

—LMS



A great nation is one which is capable of looking beyond its own view of the world, or recognizing that, however convinced it may be of the beneficence of its own role and aims, other nations may be equally persuaded of their benevolence and good intent.

—J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, on the U.S. Senate floor,
June 1965, at the height of the bitter and
protracted Vietnam debate

We have a great opportunity to extend a just peace, by replacing poverty, repression, and resentment around the world with hope of a better day.

—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH,
to the West Point graduating class, May 2002

The supposed “clash of cultures” is in reality nothing more than a manifestation of mutual ignorance.

—THE AGA KHAN, leader of the world's
15 million Ismaili Muslims, July 2007

