

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SUKARNO

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To
THERESA

Preface

THIS book is intended primarily to provide the general reader as well as the student embarking on a study of modern South-East Asia with background information and insights into the life and times of the late President Sukarno of Indonesia—the *enfant terrible* of the newly emerging nations of Asia.

Sukarno died in 1970 and this study so close to the events can only be tentative in many of its conclusions, in particular those dealing with the later years of his life.

Most of the background information has been drawn from printed sources; but much of the data and many of the views about Sukarno himself have emerged from hundreds of interviews which I was able to conduct with a politically and ideologically representative cross-section of Indonesians during 1963, 1967, and 1970. The majority of those interviewed were prepared to give information on the basis of personal trust and requested that their names should not be published. I wish to thank these people here for the kindness, helpfulness and the great hospitality extended to me during my Indonesian tours. In addition I am greatly indebted to the helpful suggestions and information given by: Dr Ali Sastroamidjojo, Dr Abu Hanifah, Prof. Achmad Subardjo, Pak Said, Anwar Tjokroaminoto, Rusni, Prof. G. Reesink, I Gusti Bagus Oka, Dr Soebardi, Achdiat K. Mihardja, and the late Dr Soetjipto Wirjosuparto. It should be stressed, however, that all evaluations and judgements are my own.

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C. Penders
March 1972

Contents

I. YOUTH: RADEN SUKARNO	I
II. NATIONALIST LEADER: BUNG KARN0	12
III. UNDER THE HEELS OF NIPPON	56
IV. REVOLUTIONARY LEADER	91
V. CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT	136
VI. GREAT LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION	158
VII. EPILOGUE	197
NOTES	205
BIBLIOGRAPHY	215
INDEX	219

Illustrations

between pages 100 and 101

1. Sukarno in 1916
2. With his second wife
3. Speaking at a meeting
4. Under the protection of Japan
5. In Western Java, July 1958
6. With his mother in March 1958
7. On an official visit to the U.S.A. in May 1956
8. Sukarno being invested with the Order of the White Lion in Czechoslovakia, September 1956
9. In Cairo, May 1956, with Colonel Nasser
10. Lunching in Stockholm, May 1959
11. In Tokyo with Emperor Hirohito
12. Sukarno being met in Delhi by Nehru in January 1958
13. With the families of government troops in March 1958
14. With his third wife in Western Java
15. On a state visit to Iraq in April 1960
16. In August 1961

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