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## Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java

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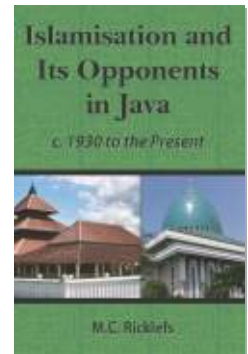
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# Transcription and orthography

In the period covered in this book, the writing of Javanese in its own script died out and was almost completely replaced by a romanised form which does not distinguish between different sounds for *e* (as Javanese script did). Because of this and in order to be consistent throughout this book, the scholarly transcription system normally used for Javanese has not been used, so no distinctions are drawn among the pronunciations /ə/, /é/ or /è/. In Javanese, vowels are pronounced as in English except for *a*, which is pronounced rather like English *o* when it is found in penultimate and final syllables without final consonants. In Indonesian, vowels are pronounced as in English. In both Javanese and Indonesian, consonants are generally (ignoring some subtleties) pronounced as they are in English (with *g* as a hard consonant), with the following exceptions. In both languages, *c* is pronounced like English *ch* as in 'chair'. In Indonesian, *sy* is pronounced like English *sh*. Stress in both Indonesian and Javanese words is generally on the penultimate syllable. Plurals of Indonesian or Javanese words have been formed here by adding the English form *s* or *es*.

For place names, contemporary Indonesian usage is employed. For example, Kediri is found rather than the correctly Javanese form Kedhiri (Kédhiri) and Ponorogo rather than Panaraga (or the older form Pranaraga).

Consistency in transliterating Javanese personal names became a problem after they came to be written in the Western alphabet. Javanese individuals often varied in their own choice of transcriptions. I have attempted to follow personal preferences where they are known. Colonial-era spellings are sometimes used, particularly for personal names, including in post-colonial times. For example, President Soeharto's name was usually spelled in this old-fashioned way. In such cases, *dj* is pronounced like English *j*, *tj* is pronounced like English *ch*, *j* is pronounced like English *y*, and *oe* is pronounced like English *u*. Thus, one finds here Tjokroaminoto rather than the 'correct' transcription Cakraaminata. Soeharto's name is pronounced 'Suharto' (which, were we to use the scholarly transcription system for Javanese script, would be spelled Suharta). One can have some sympathy, if

little professional respect, for the hapless Australian television correspondent in Jakarta who insisted on reporting about 'President So-é-harto'.

Arabic is transcribed with a simplified version of the system found in the third edition of *Encyclopaedia of Islam*. Diacritics are used as little as possible. The 'ayn is indicated by ' (being one of the most difficult sounds for non-native speakers to pronounce: a sort of *a* sound made in the pharynx), while the *hamza* glottal stop is indicated with '. Words in Old Javanese and Sanskrit follow currently accepted systems of transliteration. In Sanskrit words, ś is pronounced like English *sh*.

