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## Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java

M.C. Ricklefs

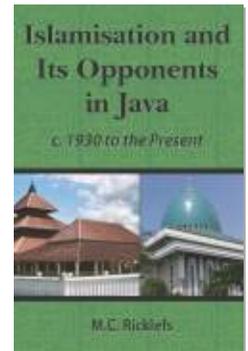
Published by NUS Press Pte Ltd

Ricklefs, M.C.

Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java: A Political, Social, Cultural and Religious History, c. 1930 to Present.

New ed. NUS Press Pte Ltd, 2012.

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# Acknowledgments

The work on this book began 40 years ago, before I planned to write such a book at all. I had not even finished my doctorate when I was invited by the late Prof. Nehemia Levtzion to give a conference paper at London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, where I was then teaching) on the history of Islamisation in Java.<sup>1</sup> This paper became, in effect, an early blue-print for what has now become this rather large book and its two predecessors. My interest and competence in this history was further stimulated by a request from BBC Radio in 1977 to prepare and present an hour-long radio documentary on Islam in Indonesia. I travelled to Indonesia with the producer John Thomas and recorded a range of valuable interviews. This required us to overcome Soeharto-era governmental resistance to the idea, which we did by saying that if we couldn't interview people within the country we would do the documentary on the basis of interviews with exiles overseas. We decided whom to interview largely on advice from my then-colleague at SOAS, the late Dr Khaidir Anwar. In subsequent years, I kept returning to those interview materials as the society that they described was changing before my eyes.

In the end I decided that the history of the Islamisation of the Javanese required analysis on a three-book scale. Hence my *Mystic synthesis in Java: A history of Islamisation from the fourteenth to the early nineteenth centuries* (2006), *Polarising Javanese society: Islamic and other visions c. 1830–1930* (2007) and finally this book.

Part I of this book was done mainly in the common historical style of the lone scholar (that is to say, I) slogging through immense amounts

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<sup>1</sup> Published some years later as 'Six centuries of Islamization in Java', pp. 100–128 in N. Levtzion (ed.), *Conversion to Islam* (New York and London: Holmes and Meier, 1979); and partially reprinted, pp. 36–43, in Ahmad Ibrahim *et al.* (eds), *Readings on Islam in Southeast Asia* (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1985).

of primary and secondary sources. Part II, on the period since 1998, was done in a somewhat different way, involving key contributions by colleagues and collaborators in Indonesia. I refer to Drs Soedarmono and multiple colleagues and students organised by him in Surakarta over 2003–10, Suhadi Cholil and Imam Subawi in Kediri over 2003–10, Dr Noorhaidi Hasan in Yogyakarta in 2007–8 and Arif Maftuhin there over 2007–10, Dr Masdar Hilmy in Surabaya over 2007–10, Iskandar Wibawa in Kudus in 2004, and Dr Amelia Fauzia and her colleagues at UIN Jakarta in 2010–1. Also at UIN Jakarta, Prof. Jamhari Makruf and the Pusat Pengkajian Islam dan Masyarakat offered help through their surveys. Further details on the contribution of these colleagues may be found in the appendix on research methodology and case studies. Cooperation by the many interviewees who provided so much of the information in this book was obviously crucial. They ranged from prominent figures to students to ordinary rural villagers; those actually cited in the book are listed in the bibliography.

Part II of this book represents part of a broader research project on ‘Islam and Social Dynamics in Indonesia: comparative analysis of law, culture, politics and religion since c. 1998’, in which I studied Javanese-speaking areas, Chaider Bamualim addressed West Java and Jakarta, and Dr Michael Feener tackled Aceh. Our frequent lunches and other interactions provided us with a stimulating and valuable comparative context for our work.

The draft of the entire book was read by Dr Nico Kaptein, whose comments were invaluable. Dr Michael Feener also read and commented on Part I of the draft and Dr Andrée Feillard made several helpful suggestions. Prof. Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na‘im, Prof. Abdullah Saeed and Dr Norman Ricklefs gave me valuable comments on drafts of Chapter 14.

Advice on various matters of detail was provided by Prof. Abdullah Saeed, Dr Novi Anoegrajekti, Bambang Arif Rahman, Blontank Poer, Dr Andrew Beatty, Prof. Martin van Bruinessen, Prof. Robert Cribb, Prof. Djoko Suryo, Prof. Joseph Errington, Dr Amelia Fauzia, Dr Greg Fealy, Prof. Jim Fox, Prof. Barbara Hatley, Dr Audrey Kahin, Prof. Gavin Jones, Sidney Jones, Prof. Tim Lindsey, Dr George Quinn, Dr Stuart Robson, Dr Sya‘i Anwar and Fajar Riza Ul Haq. I am grateful to Victoria Glendinning for helping to ‘crisp up’ a recalcitrant paragraph and to Dr Paul Kratoska and his NUS Press team for their superb handling of the production process.

Published and unpublished sources came from several libraries. The most important were the libraries of Cornell University (where I was hosted by the Southeast Asia Program), Monash University, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, and the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde in Leiden.

The research for this book was funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery grant (2004–6), an NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences grant (2006–8), NUS (university-level) bridging funding (2008) and Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund Tier 2 grant no. T208A4107 (2008–11).

Whatever virtues may be found in this volume owe much to the friends, colleagues and collaborators named above and my thanks go to them all. The book's faults are, I'm afraid, all mine.

**MCR**