Mobilizing Labour for the Global Coffee Market
For centuries Asian workers provided their own societies and the world with manufactures, spices, rice and many other items. Recruitment, organization and control of sufficient amounts of labour have been essential to keep the Asian economies and societies going. This series aims at looking into these dynamics in depth, acknowledging the wide-ranging variety of social trajectories including labour values and cultural connotations, ecological constraints and different degrees of market orientations. The series aims to be a meeting place between experts from a variety of disciplines; from linguistics to history and social sciences. The core ambition of the series is to explain different types of labour (share cropping, wage labour, slavery, casual or precarious labour) within a wider cultural, economic and ecological context. Topics such as guilds, circulation of labour, gender stratifications, religious and ethnic identities or modes of labour control are all relevant to this approach. Other topics may be balancing these more structural considerations by departing from the workers’ perspectives and their actions: ranging from collective action and daily resistance to life cycles and their relationship to labour. Geographically the series will cover the space from East Asia to West Asia; from Japan to Egypt.

Series Editors
Ulbe Bosma, International Institute of Social History and VU University, Amsterdam
Touraj Atabaki, International Institute of Social History and Leiden University
Claude Chevaleyre, École des Haute Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris
Mobilizing Labour for the Global Coffee Market

*Profits From an Unfree Work Regime in Colonial Java*

*Jan Breman*
'And there came strangers from the West, who made themselves lord and master of the land. They wished to reap the benefits of the fertility of the soil, and ordered the inhabitants to devote part of their labour and their time to fulfilling other tasks’ – there used to be talk namely of rice, which the Javanese people needed to stay alive – ‘other tasks, that would produce greater profits on markets in Europe. To persuade the common man to perform these tasks, nothing more was needed than the simplest of politics. He would always obey his Chiefs. It was therefore only necessary to win over the Chiefs by promising them a share of the profits ... and it was a complete success.’

Multatuli – On free labour in the Dutch East Indies, and the current colonial agitation. Amsterdam 1862: 38-39