



## Colonial Counterinsurgency and Mass Violence: The Dutch Empire in Indonesia (Routledge Studies in the Modern History of Asia)

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Whether out of historical interest, romantic identification with the colonized or as models for contemporary counter-insurgency experts, the mass violence of insurgency and counter-insurgency in the post-war decolonization of the European empires has long exerted an intense fascination. In the main, the dramas in French Algeria and British Kenya in the 1950s have dominated the scene, overshadowing the equally violent events that unfolded in the Dutch, Belgian and Portuguese empires. *Colonial counterinsurgency and mass violence* is the first book in English to treat the intense conflict that occurred during the 'Indonesian revolution'—the decolonization struggle of the Dutch East Indies between 1945 and 1949. This case is particularly significant as the first episode of post-war colonial violence, indeed one with global reverberations. International opinion was ranged against the Dutch, and the nascent United Nations condemned its euphemistically termed 'police actions' to reclaim the archipelago from Indonesian nationalists after defeat by the Japanese in 1942. As this book makes clear, however, intra-Indonesian violence was no less prevalent, as rival independence visions vied for control and villagers were caught between the fronts. Taking a multi-perspectival approach, eighteen authors examine the origins of the conflict as well as its representational and memory dimensions. *Colonial counterinsurgency and mass violence* will appeal to scholars of imperial history, mass violence and memory studies alike.

This book is based on a special issue of the *Journal of Genocide Research*.

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Review

"One gains much from reading *Colonial Counterinsurgency and Mass Violence: The Dutch Empire in Indonesia* from cover to cover, for it is a convincing example of how scholars with sometimes quite different positions can fruitfully enter into a conversation that has relevance beyond their narrow field. In doing so, this anthology has brought a high level of complexity to a hitherto simplified historical narrative."

Marie Muschalek **University of Freiburg**, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 172 (2016) 111–153

About the Author

**Bart Luttikhuis** studied history and philosophy at the University of Amsterdam and Humboldt University in Berlin, and in 2014 completed his PhD at the European University Institute, Florence, on 'Constructions of Europeanness in late-colonial Indonesia, 1910–1940'.

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