

## Editorial Notice

The first volume in this series of four was an effort to compare the colonial legacies of the pre-independence decades of Indian and Indonesian history. In their papers the contributors to the Cambridge-Delhi-Leiden-Yogyakarta Project on the Comparative History of India and Indonesia showed an awareness of the continuities of the colonial and post-independence periods as regards e.g. investment, planning, bureaucratic tradition and style of nationalism. In a similar way, in a third volume, they will deal with the early modern period, trying to avoid getting stuck on one side of the divide between the pre-colonial and colonial periods. Meanwhile, the present second volume endeavours to present a comparison between the impact of the Dutch and British imperial structures during the heyday of colonial rule. Some of the themes presented reflect the characteristics common to European systems of rule in Asia: *corvée* labour and overseas migration, Asian colonial armies and native princes, handicrafts and de-industrialisation. Others illustrate features of the Indian Ocean economy and civilisation that predate the period of European expansion: Pan-Islamism and Muslim reform, rural expansion and population growth, field systems and bazaar trade.

Perhaps comparative history is not really a discipline in itself. But it is certainly a method that can yield a new perspective on a set of old facts. It is in this vein that we hope that this volume, like the one that preceded it, will contribute to an awareness of the many common issues in South and South-east-Asian history.

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