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By BENJAMIN A. BATSON (Senior Lecturer, Department of History, National University of Singapore) and SHIMIZU HAJIME (Senior Researcher, Area Studies Department, Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, Japan)

The *Tragedy of Wanit* is a memoir of Thai politics at the outbreak of the Pacific War, written in the 1950s by Asada Shunsuke, a senior Japanese diplomat serving in Bangkok during the critical pre-war period. The central figure is Wanit Pananon, a confidant of Thai Prime Minister Phibun and, until his arrest and death in mysterious circumstances in early 1944, a key figure in Thai-Japanese relations. Asada's memoir is published both in Japanese and in an edited English translation, together with an introduction by Benjamin A. Batson and Shimizu Hajime which explains the historical context and discusses some of the implications of Asada's work.

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By TRAN MY-VAN (Senior Lecturer, University of South Australia)

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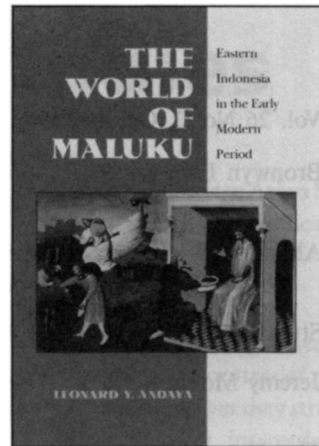
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Published by
Singapore University Press (Pte) Ltd
National University of Singapore

Typeset by: Letraprint
Printed by: Hup Soon Printing

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