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Robert Van Niel

***Java's Northeast Coast 1740-1840*
A Study in Colonial Encroachment and Dominance
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This book narrates the story of a hundred years of social, economic, and political change in both Europe and Java.

When in the 1740s the Dutch East India Company (VOC) became the governing authority in the coastal area (*pasisir*) of the Javanese Kingdom of Mataram, change was started that brought about ever stronger control over Javanese society. At first the Europeans were satisfied to put themselves at the top of the existing Javanese hierarchy and obtain economic gains through traditional tribute. New ideas in Europe relating to personal and economic freedom, financial rationalization, administrative reform, and democratic politics began to affect the control patterns in Java. However, these ideas were not an easy fit in Javanese society resulting in difficulties that impacted on profits. Eventually a compromise was devised between the old and the new that restored the colony's profitability but also created greater dominance.

Robert Van Niel (1922) has his PhD degree from Cornell University (1954). His interest in Indonesian history developed after his experience in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He has been Professor of Southeast Asian History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa since 1965 and is now Emeritus. His earlier books are *The emergence of the modern Indonesian Elite* (Den Haag: Van Hoeve, 1960) and *Java Under the Cultivation System* (Leiden: KITLV Press, 1992). Both books have been translated into Indonesian. From 1971 to 1973 he was Foundation Dean of the School of Humanities at the newly founded Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang.

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BOOK NEWS

Ernst van Veen and Leonard Blussé (eds)

***Rivalry and Conflict*
European Traders and Asian Trading Networks
in the 16th and 17th Centuries
(Studies in Overseas History, Vol. 7)**

The rivalry between the Dutch and Portuguese in Asia is one of the classic themes of the early history of European expansion overseas. Yet it is often forgotten that until the end of the sixteenth century the seafarers and traders of Portugal and The Netherlands were the best of friends and close trading partners in Europe. This collection of essays seeks to explain the abrupt change in the relationship by analyzing the European interaction with the maritime world of Monsoon Asia. Portuguese as well as Dutch interests, political, commercial and personal, became closely interwoven with those of the indigenous rulers, merchants and financiers. The final outcome of the conflict in Asia was mainly determined by the different ways in which both parties were able to cope with the intricacies of Asian politics. 'European Expansion in the Indian Ocean' was far from a one-sided affair and its history can only be understood in terms of the interaction of both Europeans and Asians involved.

Contributors: Ernst van Veen, Jacques Paviot, Mafalda Soares da Cunha, Walter Rossa, João Paulo Oliveira e Costa, Arie Pos, Francisco Bethencourt, Om Prakash, Pius Malekandathil, Rui Manuel Loureiro, Peter Borschberg, Arend de Roever, René Barendse, Marcus Vink, Cátia Antunes and George Bryan Souza.

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