

The Dutch East Indies

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What is the Dutch East Indies

- Territory of the Dutch colony that was mainly comprised of the modern day state of Indonesia
- The Dutch has this colony for its contribution with spices and cash crops
- A land containing a rich culture and very diverse people



Dutch take over

- After an interruption in Dutch spices the potential of the East Indies was sought out
- Constant wars in Asia caused the Dutch to have difficulties taking over the East Indies
- However help from the British would establish the modern day borders between Indonesia and Malaysia





Japan's take over soon after

- Japanese assets are frozen as a result of negligence from the Dutch
- Japan retaliates by invading the Dutch East Indies
- Despite the Dutchs advances Japan took over the Dutch East Indies in less than 3 months

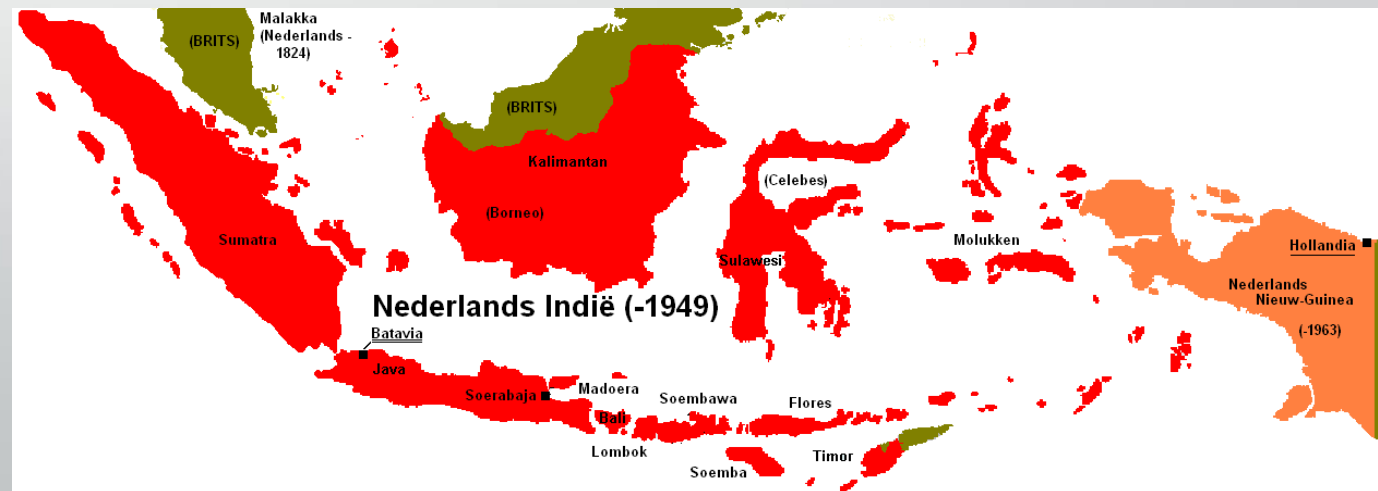
Initial impressions by the Japanese

- Despite Indonesians showing kindness Japan would not treat them much different than the Dutch
- Millions of Indonesians were forced to become laborers
- Up to 500,000 were sent away to the outer islands
- 4 million would die due to the famine



How did Japan handle all the land

- A focus on waterways
- Use of islands as defense posts against allied attacks
- Division of Indonesia into parts

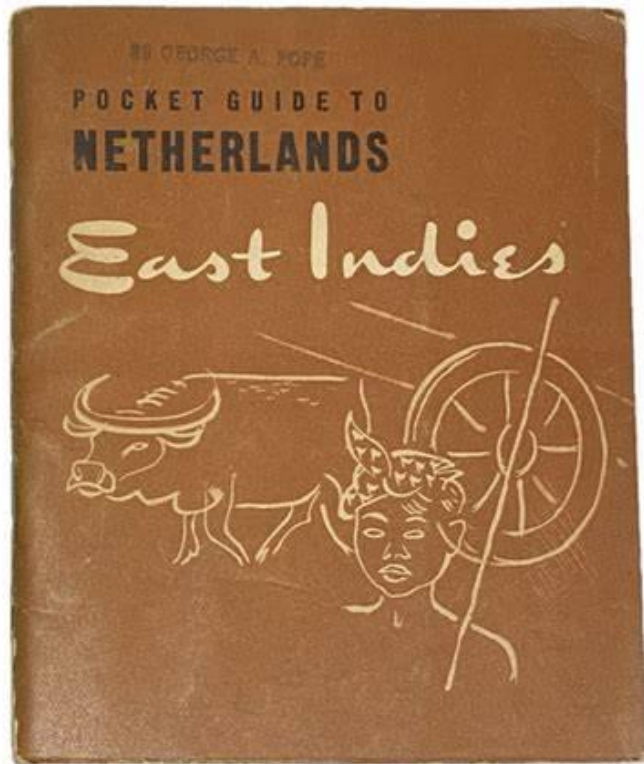


Treatment of Indonesians by Japanese

- Many deaths were caused by illnesses, forced labor, execution
- Also many people would suffer from internment camps, sex slavery, and torture
- Much of the evidence of these war crimes ended up destroyed by Japanese soldiers



American intervention



- Douglas MacArthur would fight to liberate the people of the East Indies
- First he would liberate Dutch New Guinea
- Second he would do the same with Philippines

Independence 2 days later

- Indonesian nationalist Sukarno declares Indonesian Independence
- 2 days before is the surrender of the Japanese
- After this Indonesia would continue to fight the Dutch for independence

Sources

[Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies - Wikipedia](#)

[Dutch East Indies - Wikipedia](#)