

GEOGRAPHICAL HANDBOOK
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NETHERLANDS
EAST INDIES
VOLUME II

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

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NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

VOLUME II

1234

November 1944



NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

*This volume was produced and
printed for official purposes
during the war 1939/45*

PREFACE

IN 1915 a Geographical Section was formed in the Naval Intelligence Division of the Admiralty to write Geographical Handbooks on various parts of the world. The purpose of these handbooks was to supply, by scientific research and skilled arrangement, material for the discussion of naval, military, and political problems, as distinct from the examination of the problems themselves. Many distinguished collaborators assisted in their production, and by the end of 1918 upwards of fifty volumes had been produced in Handbook and Manual form, as well as numerous short-term geographical reports. The demand for these books increased rapidly with each new issue, and they acquired a high reputation for accuracy and impartiality. They are now to be found in Service Establishments and Embassies throughout the world, and in the early years after the last war were much used by the League of Nations.

The old Handbooks have been extensively used in the present war, and experience has disclosed both their value and their limitations. On the one hand they have proved, beyond all question, how greatly the work of the fighting services and of Government Departments is facilitated if countries of strategic or political importance are covered by handbooks which deal, in a convenient and easily digested form, with their geography, ethnology, administration, and resources. On the other hand, it has become apparent that something more is needed to meet present-day requirements. The old series does not cover many of the countries closely affected by the present war (e.g. Germany, France, Poland, Spain, Portugal, to name only a few); its books are somewhat uneven in quality, and they are inadequately equipped with maps, diagrams, and photographic illustrations.

The present series of Handbooks, while owing its inspiration largely to the former series, is in no sense an attempt to revise or re-edit that series. It is an entirely new set of books, produced in the Naval Intelligence Division by trained geographers drawn largely from the Universities, and working at sub-centres established at Oxford and Cambridge. The books follow, in general, a uniform scheme, though minor modifications will be found in particular cases; and they are illustrated by numerous maps and photographs.

The purpose of the books is primarily naval. They are designed first to provide, for the use of Commanding Officers, information in a

comprehensive and convenient form about countries which they may be called upon to visit, not only in war but in peace-time; secondly, to maintain the high standard of education in the Navy and, by supplying officers with material for lectures to naval personnel ashore and afloat, to ensure for all ranks that visits to a new country shall be both interesting and profitable.

Their contents are, however, by no means confined to matters of purely naval interest. For many purposes (e.g. history, administration, resources, communications, etc.) countries must necessarily be treated as a whole, and no attempt is made to limit their treatment exclusively to coastal zones. It is hoped therefore that the Army, the Royal Air Force and other Government Departments (many of whom have given great assistance in the production of the series) will find these Handbooks even more valuable than their predecessors proved to be both during and after the last war.

J. H. GODFREY,

Director of Naval Intelligence

1942

The foregoing preface has appeared from the beginning of this series of Geographical Handbooks. It describes so effectively their origin and purpose that I have decided to retain it in its original form.

This volume has been prepared for the Naval Intelligence Division at the Cambridge sub-centre (General Editor, Dr. H. C. Darby). It has been largely written by Mr. J. S. Furnivall with contributions from Mr. S. H. Beaver, Dr. P. W. Richards, Mr. J. C. Stuttard, and Mr. T. G. Tutin. The maps and diagrams have been drawn by Mr. A. O. Cole, Miss H. Collins, Miss K. S. A. Froggatt, Miss F. Hands and Miss J. D. I. Tyson. The volume has been edited by Mr. J. C. Stuttard and Mr. T. G. Tutin.

E. G. N. RUSHBROOKE,

Director of Naval Intelligence

November 1944

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MAP OF EAST INDIES (1 : 4,000,000) *in pocket at end*

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Chapter I

THE PEOPLE

Introduction: Physical Types: Languages: Peoples of Java: Peoples of Sumatra: Peoples of Borneo: Peoples of Celebes: Peoples of the Moluccas: Peoples of New Guinea: Peoples of Bali and Lombok: Peoples of the Timor Group: Education: Bibliographical Note

INTRODUCTION

The Malay Archipelago has been of world importance for many centuries as a goal of commerce, and as a market for the exchange of goods between East and West. It has attracted maritime peoples who have left their mark on the population of the islands; sometimes they have mixed with the natives, and sometimes they have founded settlements retaining a separate identity.

It is uncertain whether land bridges between the western islands and Malaya and the eastern islands and Australia still existed when modern man first spread over this region, but communication has always been possible by sea; with favourable winds even primitive native craft can traverse the whole archipelago without losing sight of land for more than a few hours. To the east and south, however, beyond New Guinea and Australia, the vast expanse of ocean presents a formidable barrier to migration.

The line of advance would ordinarily be from the mainland on the north and west towards the islands in the south and east, but tribes driven up against the ocean barrier could retrace their steps and look for sanctuary in hills or remote islands which formerly they had left behind. Thus various peoples continually moved forwards and backwards.

During the long series of migrations throughout the archipelago there was much intermarriage between the later arrivals and their predecessors and, in cultural features, a mutual give and take. The final product was a common Indonesian culture, elaborate and distinctive, which still survives but, owing to local diversity in physical and economic environment and in the accidents of history, it has crystallized out in an innumerable variety of ways. Customs have changed slowly in the past and now change far more rapidly.

Peoples who lived in trees now dwell on the ground; even the most backward tribes use metal for their weapons and wear garments of imported cloth; hunters and fishermen are taking to agriculture; the family is yielding to the village as the unit of social life, and everywhere communal ideas are breaking down under the solvent force of individualism. The present chapter deals merely with the broad racial, linguistic and cultural distinctions of the native inhabitants; the immigrant groups are discussed in Chapter v.

PHYSICAL TYPES

At every stage the successive migrations of peoples in the Netherlands Indies brought about a mixture of blood and fusion of races, with a mutual interchange of speech and culture, so that over the whole area similar elements are differently combined, and form a motley pattern in remote hills and backwoods. Attempts to unravel the racial complex have multiplied confusion by inconsistencies in terminology. There is a general agreement in distinguishing an earlier stratum of inhabitants in the region, now difficult to trace except in isolated corners, and the main bulk of the modern population, composed of elements of successive invasions superimposed on the earlier elements. None of the main groups is homogeneous.

The earliest stratum seems to have been derived from peoples possessing either Australoid or Negroid characteristics. The typical Australoid is dark-skinned, hairy, of low stature, inclined to be narrow-headed (*dolichocephalic*), has a broad flat nose and ringletted hair which is elliptic in section. The Negroid type is also marked by a dark skin and broad flat nose, but the skin is smooth and the chief distinction is the woolly hair which is flat in section and tightly curled. Some, the Negritoes, are short and rather broad-headed (*brachycephalic*); others, classed generally as Papuans, are moderately tall and ordinarily dolichocephalic. Some authorities regard the Negritoes as the first men to reach south-east Asia; others give precedence to the Australoids.

In the Malay Peninsula Negritoes are represented by the Semang, who, as the Orang Akit, stretch across into Sumatra. In Java there has been recognized a Negroid element which may be of Negrito origin, and the Kalang and Badoei have been regarded as partly of Negrito ancestry. Further east there are thought to be Negrito elements in Alór, Wetar and Timor, but in Borneo, Celebes and the Moluccas there is no evidence of the former presence of Negritoes,

In New Guinea, however, Negritoes are represented by the Tapiro, the Nogulla and some other peoples of the mountain chain.

Australoid characters have been recognized among the Senoi in the south of the Malay Peninsula and among the Sakai and Koeboe of Sumatra. The presence of forerunners of Australoids in Java is thought likely from a fossil skull that was found at Wadjak in Kediri. The Australoid type is not uncommon among the Bodha of Lombok, and occurs among other culturally backward peoples in the Lesser Soenda islands eastwards to Timor. In Borneo it is represented among the Poenan, in Celebes among the Toala, and in the Moluccas among the Bonfia of Ceram. It would seem then that at one time Australoid peoples were distributed over the whole archipelago and Australoid traits can be found almost everywhere, even among the highly civilized Javanese.

Papuan elements have not been recognized in the archipelago, except in the eastern Moluccas and the Lesser Soenda islands. A Papuan strain is clearly apparent in Lombok and increases as one goes further east. The Papuans of New Guinea are of Negroid stock but are distinguished from the Negritoes by moderately tall stature and a hairy face and body (Plate 4).

Speaking generally the bulk of the present population derives from later immigrants who came in successive waves. It is generally agreed that there are two distinct constituents; the earlier one, with a brown skin, dolichocephalic, and with frizzly or wavy hair which is elliptic in section; the later one, with characteristic Mongoloid features, a skin tinged with yellow, brachycephalic, and with straight hair which is round in section.

The general agreement about racial composition is disguised by a clash in nomenclature of the peoples of the areas concerned. Certain peoples in Malaya and Sumatra have been known as Malays for centuries, and their language as Malay. These Malays were traders who settled in various ports, where the local people gradually adopted the language and all the people who spoke the Malay language came to be termed Malays. As the early Europeans came chiefly into contact with Malay-speaking peoples, the lands which these frequented came to be known as the Malay Peninsula and archipelago and the term 'Malay' gained a further extension to cover all the inhabitants of this region. Thus it had three connotations: the true Malays; the peoples who spoke the Malay language; and the peoples who lived in the Malayan region. About 1881 an attempt was made to clear up this confusion by applying the term Indonesia to the whole