

## Nurturing Indonesia

Hans Pols proposes a new perspective on the history of colonial medicine from the viewpoint of indigenous physicians. Members of the Indonesian medical profession in the Dutch East Indies actively participated in political affairs by joining and leading nationalist associations, by publishing in newspapers and magazines, and by being elected to city councils and the colonial parliament. Indonesian physicians were motivated by their medical training, their experiences as physicians, and their subordinate position within the colonial health care system to organise, lead, and join social, cultural, and political associations. Opening with the founding of Indonesia's first political association in 1908 and continuing with the initiatives of the Association of Indonesian Physicians, Pols describes how the Rockefeller Foundation's projects inspired the formulation of a nationalist health program. Tracing the story through the Japanese annexation, the war of independence, and independent Indonesia, Pols reveals the relationship between medicine and decolonisation, and the role of physicians in Asian history.

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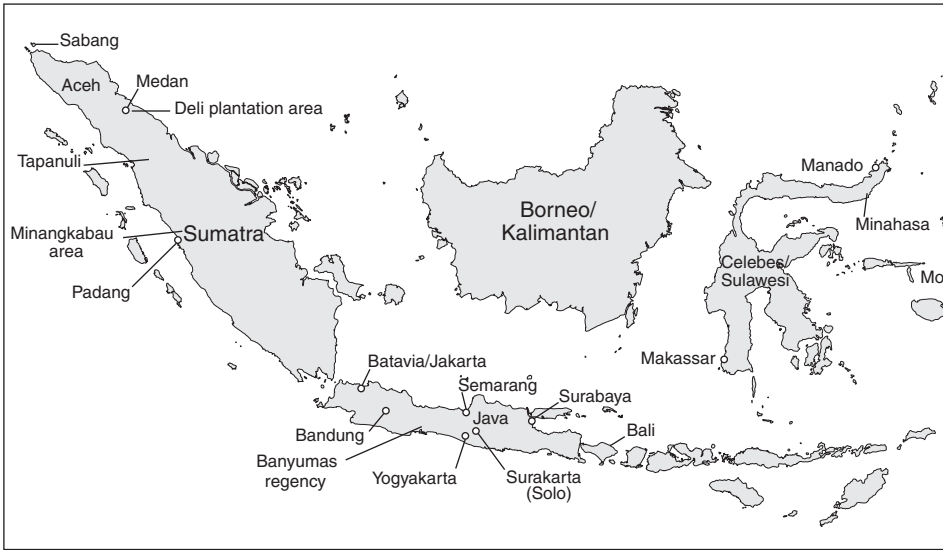
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Map of Dutch East Indies / Indonesia

# Nurturing Indonesia

*Medicine and Decolonisation in the Dutch  
East Indies*

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Hans Pols

*University of Sydney*



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## Acknowledgements

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This book is dedicated to three generations of women born in the Dutch East Indies: my great-grandmother, my grandmother, and my mother. The first two women were born in Bintaran in Yogyakarta. This neighbourhood is close to Yogyakarta's smaller sultanate (Paku Alam) where Wahidin Soedoroheoesodo served as court physician. It also was the home of Soewardi Soerjaningrat; the first Taman Siswa school he founded after he changed his name to Ki Hadjar Dewantara is a mere ten-minute walk away (as is a former prison) from the family home. The largest house in the neighbourhood was occupied by the wealthy Weijnschenck family, which owned the sugar factory Padokan (today: Madukismo) where my great-great-grandfather worked as managing director. In 1943, the house was taken over by General Sudirman (today it houses the Sudirman Museum). Soegija (Albertus Soegijapranata), a priest who sided with the Indonesian revolution, preached in the Catholic church in the same neighbourhood, and embittered Dutch physician Isaac Groneman lived there too.

This book has a long history, and over the years I have accrued many intellectual debts, too numerous to mention. I wish to single out several individuals who played crucial roles when this project was taking shape.

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## Medical Institutions

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### Medical Education in Batavia/Jakarta

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Dokter Djawa School (1851–1901)	Javanese Doctors' School Degree: Dokter Djawa [Javanese Physician]
School ter Opleiding van Inlandsche Artsen; STOVIA (1902–13)	School for the Education of Native Physicians (also referred to as: Batavia Medical College) Degree: Inlandsch Arts [Native Physician]
School ter Opleiding van Indische Artsen; STOVIA (1913–33)	School for the Education of Indies Physicians (also referred to as: Batavia Medical College) Degree: Indisch Arts [Indies Physician]
Geneeskundige Hoogeschool (1927–42)	Batavia Medical School Degree: Arts [Physician] Degree after dissertation: Docter in de Geneeskunde [Doctor in Medical Science]
Jakarta Ika Daigaku (1943–45)	Jakarta Medical School, during the Japanese annexation
Balai Perguruan Tinggi, RI (1945–49)	Indonesian Institute of Higher Education
Pendidikan Tinggi Kedokteran (1945–49)	Faculty of Medicine
Fakultas Kedokteran, Universitas Indonesia (1950–)	Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia

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### Medical Education in Surabaya

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Nederlandsch-Indische Artsen School; NIAS (1913–42)	Surabaya Medical College Degree: Indisch Arts [Indies Physician]
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xviii Medical Institutions

**The Main Hospital in Batavia/Jakarta**

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(Batavia) Centraal Burgelijk Ziekenhuis; CBZ (1919–42)	(Batavia) Central Civic Hospital
Ika Daigaku Byongin (1943–45) or Rumah Sakit Perguruan Tinggi	Jakarta University Hospital
Rumah Sakit Perguruan Tinggi (1945–48)	Jakarta University Hospital
Rumah Sakit Umum Pusat (1950–64)	Central General Hospital
Rumah Sakit Umum Pusat Cipto Mangunkusumo (1964–)	Cipto Mangunkusumo Central General Hospital

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## A Note on Spelling, Pronunciation, and Names

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Indonesian spelling has changed over the years, even though these changes have not been uniformly applied, in names in particular. For the names of the characters in this book, I use the way their names were spelled at the time. For example, I refer to Tjipto Mangoenkoesoemo instead of Cipto Mangunkusumo. For geographical indications, I use today's spelling, referring to, for example, Surabaya rather than Soerabaja.

Most Indonesian names do not follow the common Western convention of using a first name or names, followed by a family name, although many currently use names according to Western conventions by passing the last element of their name on to their children. Many Indonesians only have one name (e.g. Sukarno). In some regions, clan names function as last names (e.g. in the Batak name Parada Harahap). Menadose and Moluccan families adopted the Western pattern of naming early on: the brother of Moluccan physician Willem Karel Tehupeiry was Johannes Everhardus Tehupeiry; they shared their last name with their father. These conventions were not followed elsewhere: the name of Abdul Rivai's father, who came from the Minangkabau area in Sumatra, was Abdul Karim. In general, persons are named using the more unique part of their names (Mohamad Amir was generally called 'Amir'; Abdul Rivai 'Rivai'). The Javanese generally call someone by the first part of their name: Professor Sarwono Prawirohardjo was generally called Professor Sarwono – using the first name did not indicate any disrespect.

Several areas in Indonesia have great varieties of noble and aristocratic titles. The most common Javanese titles are Mas, Raden, and Raden Mas, which precede the first name (and are often abbreviated as 'M.', 'R.', and 'R. M. '), although the use of these honorific titles is optional. The last element of the names of upper-level Javanese aristocrats ends with *-ningrat*: for example: R. M. Soewardi Soerjaningrat). Indonesians could change their names during their lifetime (Soewardi renamed himself Ki Hadjar Dewantara in 1922, when he turned forty) or when aristocratic titles were bestowed upon them (Radjiman Wediodipero's name became *Kanjeng Raden Tumenggung Radjiman Wediodiningrat*; the first three elements of the name are honorifics). Sumatra also bestows a great number of aristocratic titles, which generally follow the last

element of one's name and title [*gelar*]. Abdul Rasjid's full name was Abdul Rasjid *gelar* Maharadja Mahkota Soangkoepon. Some Indonesians make up a short version of their name for general use. Abdurrahman Wahid, the fourth president of Indonesia, for example, is generally known as Gus Dur.

The legal system in the Dutch East Indies divided the population into three categories: Europeans, foreign Orientals (mostly Chinese and Arab traders), and natives. These categories map imperfectly onto social and anthropological categories with the same name. When, in this book, I use the term 'native', I follow common usage in colonial discourse and generally refer to the legal category.

All translations of Indonesian and Dutch sources are mine, unless otherwise indicated.