

Subversive Seas

This revealing portrait of the Dutch empire repositions our understanding of modern empires from the terrestrial to the oceanic. It highlights the importance of shipping, port cities, and maritime culture to the political struggles of the 1920s and 1930s. Port cities such as Jeddah, Shanghai, and Batavia were hotbeds for the spread of nationalism, communism, pan-Islamism, and pan-Asianism and became important centers of opposition to Dutch imperialism through the circulation of passengers, laborers, and religious pilgrims. In response to growing maritime threats, the Dutch government and shipping companies attempted to secure oceanic spaces and maintain hegemony abroad through a web of control. Techniques included maritime policing networks, close collaboration with British and French surveillance entities ashore, and maintaining segregation on ships, which was meant to “teach” those on board their position within imperial hierarchies. This innovative study exposes how anticolonialism was shaped not only within the terrestrial confines of metropole and colony, but across the transoceanic spaces in between.

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*Anticolonial Networks across the
Twentieth-Century Dutch Empire*

Kris Alexanderson
University of the Pacific



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Abbreviations

ARD	Algemeene Recherche Dienst
B&S	Butterfield & Swire
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CID	Criminal Intelligence Department
CMCS	Chinese Maritime Customs Service
CSU	Chinese Seamen's Union
DOAZ	Dienst der Oost-Aziatische Zaken
f	Guilders
FCP	French Concession Police
GG	Gouverneur-Generaal
GMD	Guomindang
ISK	Ishihara Sangyo Kaiun Kaisha
JCJL	Java-China-Japan Lijn
KNIL	Koninklijk Nederlands-Indische Leger
KPM	Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij
KUTV	Communist University of the Toilers of the East
MS	Motorship
NKKK	Nanyo Kaiun Kaisha
NOYK	Nanyo Yusen Kaisha
NSMO	Nederlandsche Stoomvaart Maatschappij Oceaan
NYK	Nippon Yusen Kaisha
OSK	Osaka Shosen Kaisha
OTB	Official Tourist Bureau
PH	Penoeloeng Hadji
PID	Politieke Inlichtingendienst
PKI	Partai Komunis Indonesia
RL	Rotterdamsche Lloyd N.V.
SMN	Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland
SMP	Shanghai Municipal Police
SS	Steamship
VNS	Vereenigde Nederlandsche Scheepvaartmaatschappij

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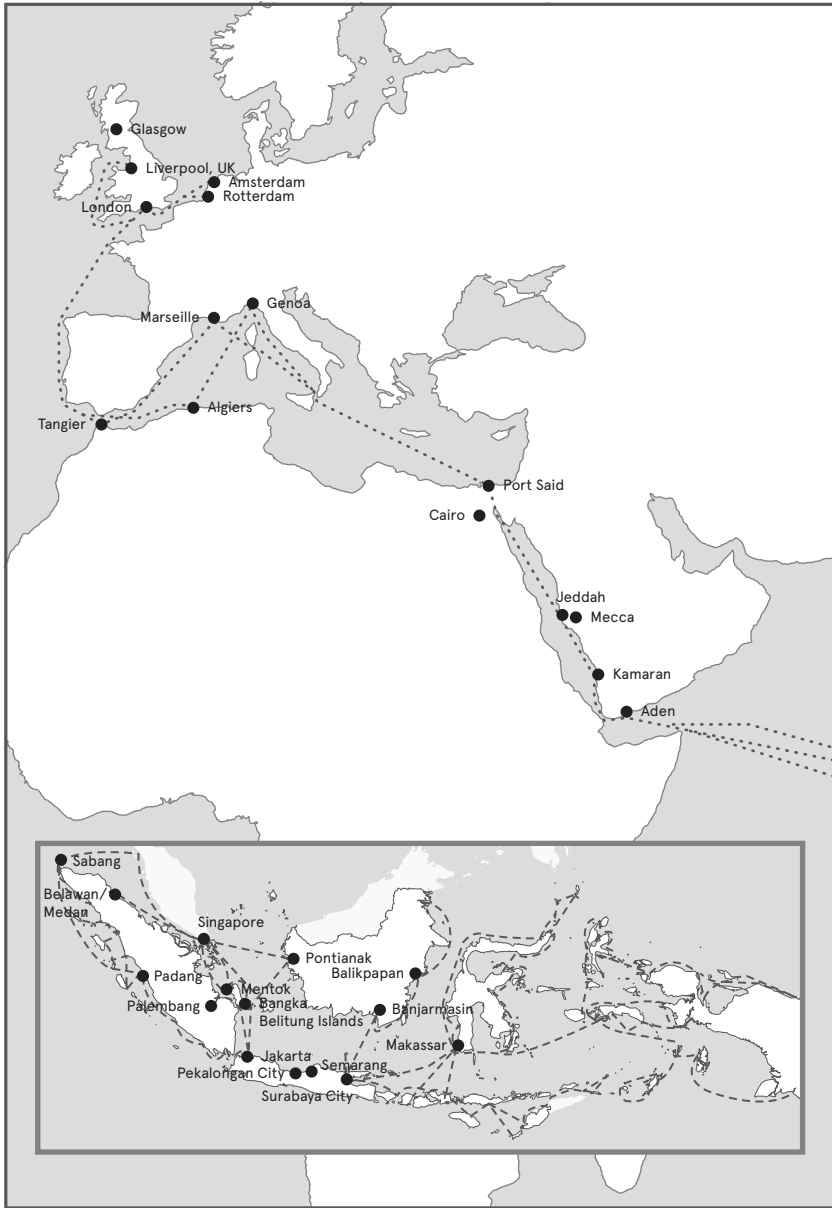
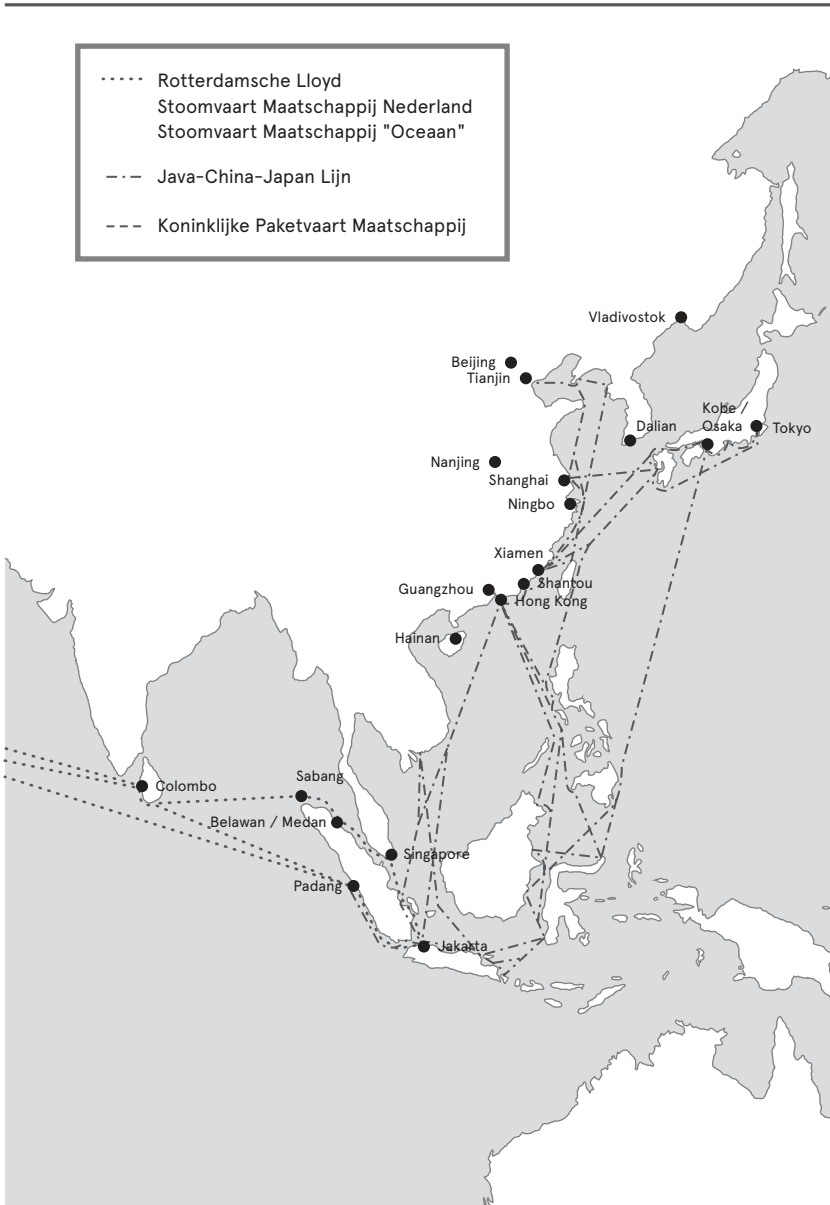


Figure 0.1 Map of shipping routes and port cities discussed in this book, c. 1926

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