This study offers a new approach to the history of sites, archaeology, and heritage formation in Asia, at both the local and the trans-regional levels. Starting at Hindu–Buddhist, Chinese, Islamic, colonial, and prehistoric heritage sites in Indonesia, the focus is on people’s encounters and the knowledge exchange taking place across colonial and post-colonial regimes. Objects are followed as they move from their site of origin to other locations, such as the Buddhist statues from Borobudur temple, which were gifted to King Chulalongkorn of Siam. The ways in which the meaning of these objects transformed as they moved away to other sites reveal their role in parallel processes of heritage formation outside Indonesia. Calling attention to the power of the material remains of the past, Marieke Bloembergen and Martijn Eickhoff explore questions of knowledge production, the relationship between heritage and violence, and the role of sites and objects in the creation of national histories.

Marieke Bloembergen is senior researcher at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) and Professor in Archival and Postcolonial Studies at Leiden University. She has published on the politics and mobility of knowledge in colonial and post-colonial Indonesia, through the lens of policing and violence, material culture, and heritage practices within inter-Asian and transnational contexts.

Martijn Eickhoff is senior researcher at NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and Professor in Archaeology and Heritage of War and Mass Violence at the University of Groningen. He has published widely on the relation between archaeology, politics, heritage formation, and mass violence, in Asia and Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
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The Politics of Heritage in Indonesia

_A Cultural History_

Marieke Bloembergen

*Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) and Leiden University*

Martijn Eickhoff

*NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and University of Groningen*
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Preface and Acknowledgements

[Those who renew or improve old and sacred buildings will either die or go mad soon afterwards.]

With these words, in 1840, Sosrodiningrat, an adviser to the Javanese royal court of Sunan Pakubuwono VII in Surakarta in the Netherlands Indies, is said to have responded to plans to restore the fifteenth-century mosque of Demak in Central Java. This examination of the politics of heritage in colonial and post-colonial Indonesia contains a mobile history of such practices of heritage formation that unfold from sites such as the mosque in Demak. The meaning of Sosrodiningrat’s mosque of 1840, of course, has changed over time to people inside and outside Indonesia. Located in a country with a majority Muslim population since at least the sixteenth century, the mosque of Demak also provides the perspective of an outsider. It is situated in a heritage landscape where the eighth-century Buddhist shrine Borobudur and the ninth-century Hindu temple complex Prambanan, both listed as World Heritage Sites, dominate as the most famous monuments in Indonesia. Why, how, and for whom such heritage histories develop, and what this reveals about the ways people in colonial and post-colonial times have engaged with history, experienced the world, and related to the future, are the questions that have guided us in our research.

Writing about the politics and mobility of heritage means becoming complicit. While pursuing our enquiry, we often thought that Sosrodiningrat’s words might apply not only to those who like to ‘renew or improve old and sacred buildings’, but also to those who study this phenomenon. We were the ones who decided whose perspectives to follow as sites and objects originating from Indonesia transformed, gained new meanings, and came to play a role in heritage politics. We have tried to be transparent in our choices. Following Marcel Mauss’ insightful theorising on ‘the gift’, we have focused on

1 Sosrodiningrat, adviser to Sunan Paku Buwono VII, quoted in Diary, Christiaan Jacobus van der Vlis, 7 October 1840, Leiden University Library, Special Collections Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (hereafter KITLV) Collections, Collection van der Vlis, inv. DH 341 “Dagboek gehouden te Soerakarta, 1840–1842”.

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exchange, and the mechanisms of reciprocity and interdependency, to provide insight into the political dynamics of cultural heritage formation. With this book, therefore, we offer a new, mobile approach to the cultural-political history of archaeology and heritage formation in Asia. We show how heritage politics create differences in various ways, for various people, and in various places. We also suggest that these politics are open to change when questioned, inside Indonesia and outside, in other worlds that have somehow become connected to Indonesian heritage.

We are grateful to the many individuals and institutions, in the Netherlands, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, France, Austria, Germany, and the United States, that have supported us in various ways. The base of support was larger than we can mention here, but we would like to thank explicitly the following people and institutions, by following more or less the order of our sites of research.

In the Netherlands, conversations with Heather Sutherland, going back to 2007, formed the germ from which we developed our first ideas, and the sites-centred approach for our project, leading to what we intend to be a more inclusive, Indonesia-centred way to study the politics and social impact of heritage formation in colonial and post-colonial times. Crucial, next, was the larger research programme ‘Sites, Bodies and Stories’ (SBS), supported by the Netherlands Scientific Organization (NWO), 2008–2012. SBS was a collaborative programme between various institutes in the Netherlands (Free University, the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), the NIOD Institute of War and Holocaust Studies) and Indonesia (Eijkman Institute in Jakarta and Gadjah Mada University (Universitas Gadjah Mada, UGM) in Yogyakarta), providing the best possible base for our research to flourish. It was led, in an exemplary inclusive way, by Susan Legêne from the Free University who brought along expertise and colleagues from what is now the Museum of World Cultures, then the Tropical Museum in Amsterdam, and from the University of Amsterdam (Universiteit van Amsterdam, UvA). Alongside Legêne, we thank all colleagues who worked in this programme, whether as co-ordinator, post-doc or PhD researcher, assistant, or in a flanking supportive role for their inspiration and input in various ways: Inajati Adrisijanti, Sadiah Boonstra, Caroline Driënhuizen, Maharta Ita, Sri Margana, Sangkot Marzuki, Uji Nugroho, Bambang Purwanto, Remco Raben, Peter Romijn, Henk Schulte Nordholt, Tular Sumedi, Claudia Surjadija, Fenneke Sysling, Daud Aris Tanudirjo, Pim Westerkamp, Erik Willems, and Henrietta Lidchi. The academic staff of the archaeology and history departments of UGM have been extremely supportive. In 2010 and 2011 they gave us the opportunity to co-organise the MA workshops ‘Archaeology and Heritage in Indonesia’, which opened up a unique space for discussion, knowledge exchange, and inspiration. We have
Preface and Acknowledgements

Furthermore immensely profited from the sphere of academic comradeship and inspiration at the two institutes that hosted our research, and where we are now based as senior researchers, Marieke at KITLV in Leiden and Martijn at NIOD in Amsterdam.

During our research, the staff members of the various archives and libraries that we consulted in Europe and Asia, all listed in the Bibliography, have helped us immensely with all our queries. Next there are the numerous informants at the sites of heritage that were objects of our research, who helped us in finding local (oral and written) histories; some wished to remain anonymous, and others are mentioned by name in this book. We thank them all here, along with those who in the very final stage of this book provided assistance in getting the visual material for this book in good shape and in good time. Notably, also in a late stage of our research, Nico van Horn pointed out to us the existence and location of Borobudur’s guestbook of the 1890s, a treasure source for this book.

At the multiple sites of our research, we have been helped by various other institutes and individuals in special ways. At the Museum Nasional in Jakarta we – and our many questions about this unique museum – were welcomed warmly by Ni Lu Putu Chandra Dewi, Retno Moerdiano, Ekowati Sundari, Dhyantri Soekarno, and Destrika. We had the same experience at the Puslit Arkenas (National Research Centre for Archaeology) where we had an inspiring and motivating conversation with Truman Simanjuntak. Henri Chambert-Loir, Arlo Griffiths, and the staff of the École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO) in Jakarta provided us with a homely and inspiring base, and generously led us to treasures and colleagues inside and outside Indonesia who could help us further with our queries. Didi Kwartanada, also based in Jakarta, gave us valuable advice for our research on Chinese archaeology and heritage.

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## Abbreviations

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<tr>
<td>AKS</td>
<td>Arsip Keresidenan Semarang (Residential Archive of Semarang)</td>
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<td>ANRI</td>
<td>Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (National Archives of the Indonesian Republic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOK</td>
<td>Archief van het Ministerie voor Algemeene oorlogvoering van het Koninkrijk (Archive of the Department of Warfare of the Kingdom, in the National Archives, The Hague)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>Algemeene Secretarie (General Secretary of the Dutch Colonial Government)</td>
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<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<td>AZ</td>
<td>Archief van het ministerie van Algemeene zaken (Archive of the Department of General Affairs, in the National Archives, The Hague)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEFEO</td>
<td>Bulletin de l’École française d’Extrême-Orient</td>
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<tr>
<td>BKI</td>
<td>Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences of Southeast Asia and Oceania)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMGN</td>
<td>BMGN – Low Countries Historical Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>BP3</td>
<td>Badan Pelestarian Peninggalan Purbakala (Regional Conservation Department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bt</td>
<td>Gouvernementsbesluit (Governmental Resolution)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIR</td>
<td>Directing Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFEO</td>
<td>École française d’Extrême-Orient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBS</td>
<td>Hogere Burgerschool (Higher Secondary School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITB</td>
<td>Institut Teknologi Bandung (Technological Institute, Bandung)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IWI</td>
<td>Indisch Wetenschappelijk Instituut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAS</td>
<td>Journal of Asian Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCICCC</td>
<td>Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>JICA</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>JRAAS</td>
<td>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>KBG</td>
<td>Koninklijk Bataviaasch Genootschap (Royal Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIT</td>
<td>Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (Royal Tropical Institute)</td>
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List of Abbreviations

KITLV   Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies)
KMP     Kabinet van de Minister President
KNAW    Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences)
MAS     Modern Asian Studies
MvK     Ministerie van Koloniën (Ministry of Colonies)
NA      Nationaal Archief (National Archives, The Hague)
NAB     National Archives, Bangkok
NAI     Nederlands Architectuurinstituut (Netherlands Institute of Architecture, Rotterdam)
OPI     Office of Public Information, UNESCO
OV      Oudheidkundig Verslag (various years)
R&A     Registry and Archives of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London
ROC     Rapport van de commissie in Nederlands-Indië voor oudheidkundig onderzoek op Java en Madoera; Uitgegeven voor rekening van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen (Reports of the Commission in the Netherlands Indies for Archaeological Research)
SOAS    School of Oriental and African Studies, London
STOVIA  School tot Opleiding van Inlandsche Artsen (School for the Education of Native Physicians)
TKNAG   Tijdschrift van het koninklijk Nederlandsch Aardrijkskundig Genootschap
UGM     Universitas Gadjah Mada (Gadjah Mada University), Yogyakarta
UNESCO  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UvA     Universiteit van Amsterdam (University of Amsterdam)
V&A     Victoria and Albert Museum, London
VOC     Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (Dutch East India Company)