Acronyms and abbreviations

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

PKI: The Indonesian Communist Party (Partai Komunis Indonesia)

SI: Sarekat Islam, or Islamic Union. Indonesia’s first mass political movement

Glossary

Aliran: Three “streams” of Indonesian culture, including the Abangan, Priyayi, and Santri groups

Abangan (Red) group: Indonesian political constituency that consists largely of citizens in rural areas that mix local village cultures and Islam. These were later combined with Marxist ideas.

Asia-Africa Conference: Also known as the Bandung Conference. Organized by the Indonesia government, the 1955 conference was attended by representatives from 29 third-world Asian and African countries that sought to remain non-aligned in the Cold War. Indonesia’s foreign policy has been guided by the conference’s agreement that encouraged economic and cultural cooperation, protection of human rights, self-determination, and the right of peaceful coexistence.

Pancasila (Five Principles): The practical application of the concept of “Bhinnekka Tunggal Ika” or “Unity in Diversity.” It sought to unify Indonesia after independence through the adoption of monotheism, humanism, national unity, consultative democracy, and social justice.

Priyayi group: Indonesian political constituency that originates from the country’s dynastic families and has formed the core of “modern” Indonesia. They are traditionally urban, more highly educated, and connected to the country’s military power.

Santri group: Indonesian political constituency that consists of the more modern Muslim groups traditionally found in urban areas.

Satu Nusa, Satu Bahasa, Satu Bahasa: Nationalist motto developed during the 1920s to encourage the vision of a unified Indonesia independent from Dutch colonial control. Each element of the motto, “One Archipelago, One People, One Language, has been a continual thread in Indonesia’s politics since its independence in 1949.

Please see the following page for some additional readings and websites.
Additional Readings and Resources

The leading “new” history of the mass killings of the Communist Party and the establishment of the New Order through violence, Robinson’s work builds on a long career of exploring this central issue of modern Indonesian history.

Wieringa’s ground breaking work explores the roles, women, gender and gender ideology played in the development first of Indonesian nationalism and then the Indonesian nation, and then explores how attacks on Communist women and their national organization Gerwani lay at the heart of the New Order’s destruction of the Communist Party.

Max Lane, the English language translator of Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s quartet of historical novels that follow a young Javanese journalist through the development of the Indonesian nationalist movement, the masterpiece of modern Indonesian literature first told out loud in the New Order prison camp on Buru Island, then smuggled out and published before being banned, writes an engaging history of the novels themselves, and how they inspired the new generation of youth who brought the Suharto dictatorship to its knees.

Initially a Latin America specialist, Bevins traces how the lessons the United States drew in the aftermath of 1965 and their support for the New Order were also exported to places like Brazil, Chile and Guatemala, where military regimes used the patterns of mass murder developed in Indonesia to quell their own leftist organizations. Bevins’ analysis of Indonesia is limited by his dependence on English language sources, but his writing on Latin America is incisive, reflecting his own expertise.

Websites:

Rappler’s Indonesia site: https://www.rappler.com/topic/indonesia/
Nobel Prize winner Maria Ressa, the founder and publisher of the Philippines’ news website focused on countering misinformation rife in Filipino politics, spent an important element of her career as the CNN correspondent in Jakarta. As a result, rappler.com continues to write about Indonesia closely, and the rappler Indonesia page provides some of the best regular, insightful coverage of Indonesia available in English.

New Mandala: https://www.newmandala.org/
Hosted by the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University, New Mandala focuses on the politics and societies of Southeast Asia, and their publication on Indonesia is particularly strong. Longer, in-depth pieces written by academics and journalists specializing in the region provide readers excellent thought pieces to help understand the region.

Indonesia Journal: https://ecommons.cornell.edu/communities/329ce9bb-7385-4d05-8b07-73aff1b3a3ff
The long-published standard academic journal on the study of Indonesia, published by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Cornell University, includes scholarly articles, interviews, translations, and book reviews. Biannual issues from the journal’s founding in 1966 through 2020 are available for free online. More recent issues are available through JSTOR for those with access. Nearly any question of interest on Indonesia will have coverage in its pages.