

Fraassen en Straver de lezer achtergrondinformatie die zij voor een goed begrip van Rumphius' tekst van belang achten. Zo komen kernbegrippen uit de Molukse samenleving en geschiedenis – *ulisiwa* en *ulilima, pela, kakehan* – aan de orde, wordt in kort bestek de (voor)geschiedenis van de kruidnagelteelt en -handel geschetst, en wordt aandacht besteed aan (de geschiedenis van) sociale en bestuurlijke structuren.

De kaderteksten zijn zowel beschrijvend als, waar het gaat om de consequenties van VOC-ingrijpen of gebrek daaraan, analytisch van aard. Wie in korte tijd een goede basiskennis over de zeventiende-eeuwse Ambonse eilanden wil opdoen, heeft veel aan deze kaderteksten. De kadertekst over spelling en uitspraak van het Maleis en de verschillende lokale Ambonse talen (p. 36) kan daarbij worden overgeslagen. In de inleiding had deze toelichting op tekstweergave en standaardisatie niet misstaan; temidden van toelichtingen op de inhoud van Rumphius' tekst is deze kadertekst een vreemde eend in de bijt.

Speciaal voor deze uitgave werden, op basis van aanwijzingen in Rumphius' tekst, topografische kaarten vervaardigd waarop zowel de door Rumphius' beschreven topografie rond het jaar 1675 als de door hem als 'vroeger' genoemde ligging van dorpen is weergegeven. Daarnaast werd geput uit de rijkdom aan prenten in Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indiën (1724-1726) van ds. François Valentijn – die zich bij zijn beschrijving van de Ambonse eilanden voor een zeer groot deel op de geschriften van Rumphius baseerde – en uit inkttekeningen die door Hans Straver werden aangetroffen bij een te Brussel bewaard manuscript over de Ambonse Oorlog (1658) van Livinius Bor.

Een verklarende woordenlijst, registers van plaats- en persoonsnamen, een lijst van gouverneurs van Ambon en een korte literatuuropgave maken het boek af. Het boek is ruim opgezet en zeer mooi uitgevoerd. Het is jammer dat slordigheden als 'zeventiende geschiedenis' (zeventiende-eeuwse geschiedenis, p. 9) en 'titelatuur' (titulatuur, p. 98) tijdens de drukproefcorrectie aan de aandacht zijn ontsnapt, en dat een lijst van afbeeldingen ontbreekt. Niettemin vormt dit boek een aanwinst voor hen die, uit persoonlijke of professionele betrokkenheid, in de geschiedenis van de Molukken geïnteresseerd zijn.

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Prema-Chandra Athukorala, *Crisis and recovery in Malaysia; The role of capital controls*. Cheltenham: Elgar, 2001, xii + 159 pp. ISBN 1.8406.462.17. Price: GBP 45 (hardback).

K. THIRUMARAN

Authukorala posits that Malaysia's financial crisis stemmed from its depend-

ence on portfolio investments and a 'considerable build-up of short-term borrowing' (p. 3). Interspersed occasionally with political commentary on the crisis period, this book illustrates the successful use of capital controls to tame the recession and turn the economy around.

The author concludes that access to domestic financial resources was a vital aid to the smooth management of the crisis by means of capital controls, and a major factor behind the eventual recovery. However, he cautions against relying on and continuing this approach when the economy rebounds. The biggest hurdle, he suggests, will be that of redeeming the financial system and reverting to macroeconomic prudence. We also learn that capital control did not adversely affect foreign direct investment, that it initiated consolidation of domestic resources through restructuring, and that it militated against potentially negative market opinions.

In a brief introductory discussion of the history of economic development in Malaysia, the author does not explain why the country moved from import substitution to market orientation other than by noting its 'commitment to an open trade regime' (p. 11). This 'explanation' is symptomatic of recent scholarly works which do not fully elucidate the issue or educate, as *Crisis and recovery in Malaysia* aspires to do, the 'wider student readership' (p. x). And was the switch a positive move? Did it not increase the country's vulnerability to exogenous business cycle shocks and speculative capital outflows?

Another drawback of the book is Authukorala's failure to expound a comprehensive way of understanding the financial collapse. Apart from citing the cascading effect of the Thai baht depreciation and its subsequent impact, the book does not explain why the investors did Malaysia in. Was there a political dimension to the withdrawals? Without investigating fully the regional-global political and economic factors for the cause of the Malaysian ringgit's fall, Authukorala suggests that 'fund managers around the globe began to test the currencies' of Southeast Asia. Why was this test done on this region? One theory propounded by some analysts was that the investment community was unhappy with Myanmar's entry into the ASEAN, which was announced on 31 May 1997 and took place in July of that year. Was Mahathir quite right in his rantings against George Soros' investment ploys? Is there any hard evidence of collusion? Or did investors simply predict the bubble bursting in Malaysia and the downside of a worldwide business cycle approaching? An international relations and political economy perspective would usefully have supplemented Authukorala's economic case study analysis here.

The chapters are organized in an excellent way with introductory briefs and concluding remarks, and there is a semblance of unity amongst the nine chapter divisions. The book also provides a useful chronology of events leading up to the 'crisis, policy response and recovery' (p. 117). Readers in the field of economics now have a contemporary case study of an instance

in which capital controls, combined with expansionary monetary and fiscal policies, seem to have provided a viable alternative to the International Monetary Fund's 'imposed' policy prescriptions.

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John Hilley, *Malaysia; Mahathirism, hegemony and the new opposition*. London: Zed Books, 2001, xiii + 305 pp. ISBN 1.85649.917.0, price GBP 50 (hardback); 1.85649.918.9, GBP 16.95 (paperback).

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This fascinating work explores Mahathir's years in power as Malaysia's third prime minister, and describes the resulting polarization of state structures, fragmentation of the social polity, and generation of a potentially viable opposition bloc in Malaysia. *Malaysia; Mahathirism, hegemony and the new opposition* is Hilley's first book, based on his doctoral thesis. Composed in a framework which is both theoretical and contemplative, the book is organized into nine chapters, each with its own specific and interrelated agenda. There is also a helpful index of subjects and a list of abbreviations.

Hilley renders his subject in the context of local-global discourse, so that Malaysian issues and events are interceded by and interspersed with extraneous factors. For example, the 1997 financial crisis and the subsequent political fallout between Mahathir and his sacked deputy prime minister Anwar are portrayed in relation to the demise of the Suharto regime at the same period in Indonesia. The pressures on President Habibie had powerful ramifications for Malaysian politics: according to Hilley, the opposition led by Anwar was inspired as well as paralleled by the street protests and the campaigns against corruption and authoritarianism going on in Indonesia.

Mahathirism is predicated on economic growth, and on the accumulation and projection of hegemonic power through state and societal structures. Hilley seems to suggest that because of this project, a new opposition bloc is emerging which may make it possible to countervail Mahathirism. To be viable, Hilley believes, the new opposition bloc needs to be cooperative and must derive its power from a widening basis of 'social and sectoral, rather than just ethnic support' (p. 267). In principle this conclusion is on target, but in practice the capacities of, and the level of cooperation among, the various opposition groups, many of which depend precisely on ethnic or religious support bases, suggests that the undoing of the Barisan National (BN) by the opposition bloc will not be possible in the immediate future.

An interesting question that springs from reading this book is whether, given the shifts in Malay politics and the changing socio-economic cleav-