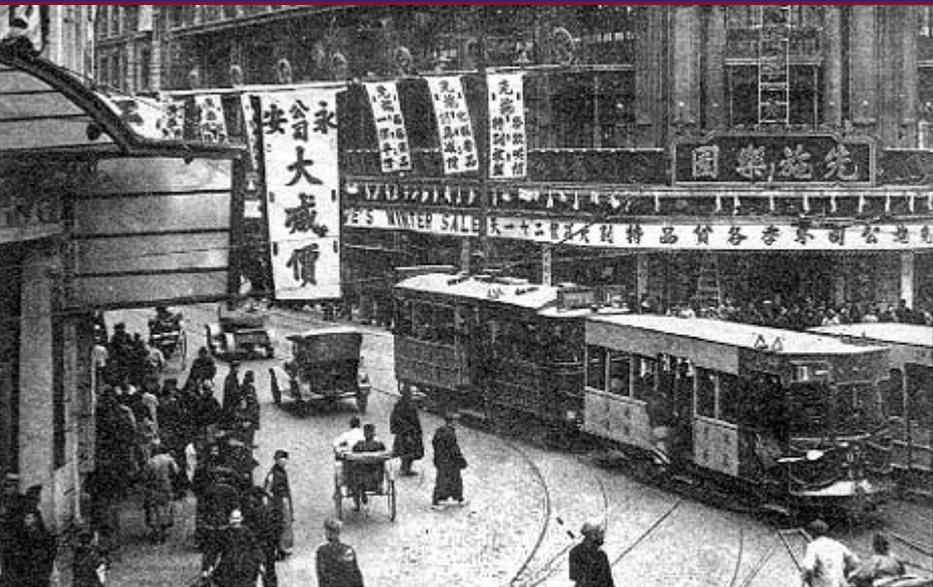


# Forgotten Victims Java 1943-1949

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# Tokyo 1920s



7通車線 (京東の筋交)



A Part of Asakusa Park, Tokyo  
District of Photoplay Theatre  
(東京) 區六區園公原淺



景風度難

- 1905 Russia defeated
- Japan model for Asian modernity and;  
anti-Western imperialism
- Parindra and Taman Siswa admired Japan  
but Gerindra and Shahrir critical, anti-fascist
- Dutch colonial rule conservative repression  
Alineated even moderate nationalists
- Thamrin: Japan our only hope

- Japan in search for resources(oil rubber) and markets
- First expansion into Taiwan and Korea
- 1931 Mantchuria; 1937 China
- Pressure on Neth-Indies on oil exports
- Urgency when war in China stagnates
- USA oil boycott vs Japan
- Fast annexation of SEA in 4 months

# Expansion in Asia



- Archipelago split up 25<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> army; navy
- Disappearance of the Dutch
- Indonesian language promoted > unity
- Stronger role priyayi
- Hopes for Nationalists?
  - No flag, no anthem, no Indonesia
  - Sukarno expected Japan to win the war

# Mobilization and control



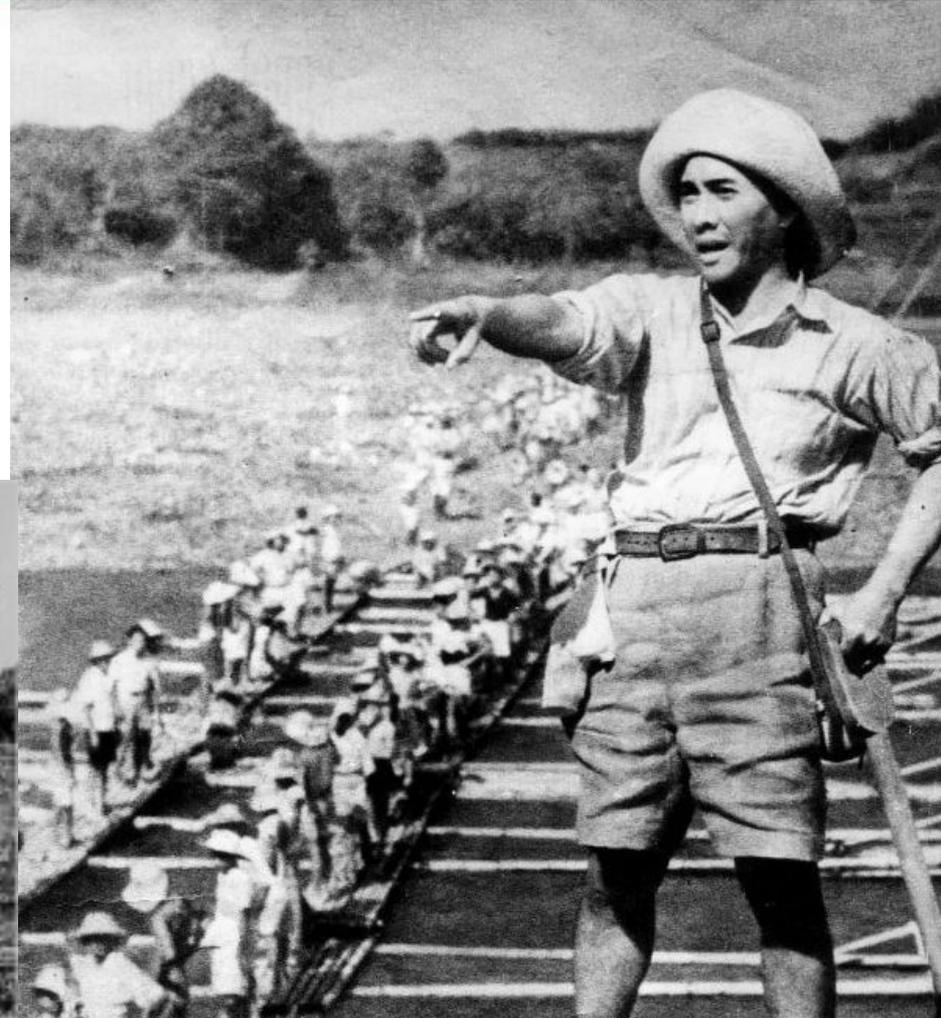
# The civilizing mission: Indonesia in Asia

- Soon army reduced 80.000 >15.000
- Efforts to win hearts and minds Javanese
  - Propaganda: mobile cinemas, theatre, picture shows, newspapers, elementary schools
  - Jawa Baroe
- Top down interventions in agriculture
- Tonarigumi system (information; mobilization)

- Tiga A (Japan Light, Protector, Leader Asia) restricted to urban elites - failed
- Poetera (Poesat Tenaga Rakyat) March 43 – failed: distrust army and nationalists obstructed by priyayi
- No access to rural Java
- Mid-43 UA army advances in Pacific
- Massive mobilisation more space for nationalist leaders; promise of independence (form of autonomy)

- Romusha – rural poor.
  - Abroad 300.000; in Java approx 12 milion in shifts
  - Airstrips, railroads, fortresses etc
  - Hardship, malnutrition; disposable labor
- Jawa Hokokai (1944) includes Seinendan/Barisan Pemoeda and Keibodan/security corps (1.8 million)
- Armed militias: Peta; Hizbullah; Barisan Pelopor; Barisan Mati; Heiho (approx 200.000)
- Total: approx. 2 million

# Mobilization of labor: Romusha



- Autarchy Residencies
- Cut off from imports (fuel)
- Shortage fuel, machines, clothing, tyres
- Forced deliveries rice per village 20% >70%
- Black markets and inflation
- Role priyayi; Chinese rice millers
- Rural and urban poor unable to buy rice
- Malnutrition: 'bubur Asia Raya' (ketela;kedele)

# 1944-1945: exhaustion, illness, famine

- Culmination:
  - Failed harvest 1944
  - Increase rice deliveries
  - Absence many young men (romusha)
  - Exhaustion; Corruption and black markets
  - Famine: 2,5 million died (P.vd Eng 2002)
  - Most victims urban and rural poor
  - Desire to return to ‘zaman normal’
  - North Vietnam: starvation 1 million people



- State collapse; general dislocation
- Reservoirs of mobilized people, anger and violence\*
- Revenge against:
  - Javanese priyayi
  - Japanese
  - Chinese
  - North Sumatran elites
  - Returning colonial soldiers
  - Europeans (bersiap)

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\*Compare Europe in 1945 (Ian Buruma 2013)

- After second military intervention dec 1948
- Dutch stubbornness; lack of statemanship
  - No hope for Dutch victory
  - survival and mechanical violence
  - Indonesian guerrilla army and militias
  - also terror against population

Estimated Indonesian victims 200.000

- Netherland turned its back to its colonial past, concentrated on European victims.
- Indonesia commemorates heroes 45-49.
- Japan experienced traumatic defeat and paid \$800 million war damage to Indonesia.
- As a result:
  - Almost 3 million Javanese victims disappeared into silence.
  - What do we know about traumas in their families?