

Contents

Acknowledgements	v
Foreword	vii
List of Contributors	xi
Introduction: Is Southeast Asia a “Terrorist Haven”? <i>Kumar Ramakrishna and See Seng Tan</i>	1
I. The Religion/Ideology Factor	
1. Bali and Southeast Asian Islam: Debunking the Myths <i>Azyumardi Azra</i>	39
2. Deconstructing <i>Jihad</i> : Southeast Asian Contexts <i>Patricia A. Martinez</i>	59
II. The Al Qaeda Factor	
3. The Question of “Links” Between Al Qaeda and Southeast Asia <i>Clive Williams M. G.</i>	83
4. The Indigenous Roots of Conflict in Southeast Asia: The Case of Mindanao <i>Andrew Tan</i>	97
5. Understanding Al Qaeda and its Network in Southeast Asia <i>Rohan Gunaratna</i>	117
6. Al Qaeda in Southeast Asia: Exploring the Linkages <i>Zachary Abuza</i>	133
III. The Media Factor	
7. The Globalised Media and Southeast Asia: Boon or Bane? <i>Jonathan Woodier</i>	161
8. Evaluating Western Media Perceptions of Thailand After the Bali Bombing <i>Kavi Chongkittavorn</i>	181

IV. The ASEAN Factor

9. ASEAN Counter-Terror Strategies and Cooperation: How Effective? 201
Daljit Singh
10. Enhancing State Capacity and Legitimacy in the Counter-Terror War 221
Jose T. Almonte
11. Counter-Terror Cooperation in a Complex Security Environment 241
K. S. Nathan

V. The US Factor

12. An Enemy of Their Making? US Security Discourse on the September 11 Terror Problematique 261
See Seng Tan
13. Power, Leadership and Legitimacy in the War on Terror: Meshing “Soft” and “Hard” Power in US Foreign and Security Policies 281
Evelyn Goh
14. US Strategy in Southeast Asia: Counter-Terrorist or Counter-Terrorism? 305
Kumar Ramakrishna

VI. The Indonesia Factor

15. Indonesia and the Challenge of Radical Islam After October 12 341
Rizal Sukma
16. The Indonesian Dilemma: How to Participate in the War on Terror Without Becoming a National Security State 357
Leonard C. Sebastian
17. Assessing Indonesia’s Vulnerability in the Wake of the American-Led Attack on Iraq 383
Tarik S. Hafidz

Bibliography 403

Index 421

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Azyumardi Azra is Professor of History at Institute Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN, or State Institute for Islamic Studies), Jakarta, Indonesia. Born in West Sumatra (4 March 1955), he graduated from the Faculty of Tarbiyah (Islamic Education), IAIN Jakarta (1982). In 1986 he won a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue his advanced studies at Columbia University, where he secured his MA (1988) from the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. Winning a Columbia President Fellowship, he moved to Columbia's Department of History, where he secured another MA (1989), MPhil (1990), and PhD (1992) with his dissertation on "The Transmission of Islamic Reformism to Indonesia: Networks of Middle Eastern and Malay-Indonesian Ulama in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries". The dissertation is to be published by the Australia Association of Asian Studies in cooperation with Allen Unwin. From 1995 to 1997, he was vice Director of the Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (Censis), a Research Centre of IAIN Jakarta before being appointed as Vice Rector for Academic Affairs in 1997.

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