
Preface and acknowledgements

The editor wishes to thank Edward Elgar (UK), in particular, the commissioning editor, Catherine Elgar, for having the courage to support this ambitious undertaking. A word of heartfelt thanks is also due to Felicity Plester, Kate Emmins and the staff of Edward Elgar for polishing up the draft so well. Many thanks indeed to the many authors who have contributed to this book; collectively, they constitute a repository of experts on rebellion in Southeast Asia. These authors have spent many months collecting information and doing fieldwork; their dedication and the quality of their scholarship is reflected in the many excellent chapters in this volume.

The contributors, to whom this book owes its existence, are: Dr Greg Fealy, Ms Elena Pavlova, Dr Adam Dolnik, Professor James Veitch, Badrus Sholeh, Ms Elina Noor, Professor Rommel Banlaoi, Professor Paul Rodell, Professor Kamarulzaman Askandar, Professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Philips J. Vermonte, Martin Smith, Professor Syed Serajul Islam, Dr Gary Yia Lee, Dr Peter Carey, Professor Miriam Coronel Ferrer, Professor Rohan Gunaratna and Professor Renato Cruz de Castro.

The editor would like to record a word of thanks and appreciation to Professor Terry Walter and Professor Bruce Milthorpe, University of New South Wales – Asia, who have been very supportive during the latter phases of this project. The editor would also like to thank Professor Matt Uttley, Professor Wyn Bowen, Professor Geoff Till and Dr Stuart Griffin of King's College London, who have been extremely supportive of the early phase of this project whilst the editor was Senior Lecturer in the faculty of the Defence Services Department, KCL, in the Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK. The editor also wishes to thank the Asian Research Institute, particularly its Director, Professor Anthony Reid, for hosting the author during his field research trip. The assistance extended by the ARI was certainly invaluable and much appreciated.

It is the collective hope of all the contributors that this book will help deepen understanding, in a holistic and historically empirical way, the nature of rebellion in Southeast Asia. As such, this volume takes a broad and holistic definition of terrorism as its basis. Indeed, the topic of 'terrorism and insurgency in Southeast Asia' cannot be viewed in narrow definitional terms, nor is it amenable to a set of generalizations, and hence narrow prescriptive countermeasures. Each and every rebellion within the region has deep historical, political, social and economic roots which do not easily lend themselves to generalizations except in the broadest of

conceptual terms, such as 'lack of state legitimacy' or the 'need for comprehensive measures'. It follows therefore that a narrowly bounded definition and view of rebellion in the region, such as that inherent in the concept of the region as 'the second front in the war on global terrorism' will result in misdiagnosis, the wrong counter-terrorism strategies, the failure of political strategy, the gross misdirection of scarce resources, and the guarantee that violence and conflict in this region will continue unabated for a very long time.

It is the hope of the contributors that as a reference and education text, this volume will help to provide an empirical, area studies-oriented guide to understanding the complex problem of rebellion in Southeast Asia; a deeply informed understanding that could provide the basis for thinking about not merely 'counter-terrorism' but the appropriate comprehensive strategies to what have been deep-rooted and long-standing conflicts within the region, now made more urgent with the advent of the 'new' and deadly global terrorism.

Andrew T.H. Tan
Associate Professor of International Studies
University of New South Wales

