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## Preface and acknowledgements

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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.

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