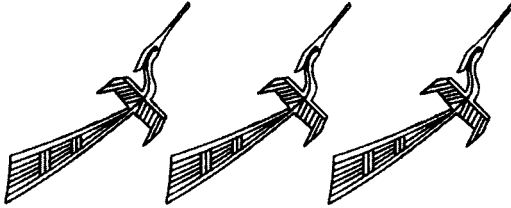


## *Preface*



**THIS BOOK PRESENTS** a multidisciplinary reconstruction of the prehistory of the modern nations of Indonesia and Malaysia as viewed from the perspective of the whole Southeast Asian and Australasian region. Since modern nations' boundaries have little meaning for the student of the remote past, I refer to the region in the following chapters as "the Indo-Malaysian Archipelago." Several interlinked aspects of prehistory are reviewed, mainly from data produced by the disciplines of biological anthropology, linguistics, and archaeology. The overall time span runs from about 2 million years ago to approximately AD 1000. In general, the book ceases with the historical civilizations of the first millennium AD, although it should be realized that prehistory *sensu stricto* continued in some remote regions to almost the present day.

I would like to acknowledge here the assistance of many of my colleagues who have read parts of the work. These include (for the first edition) Robert Blust of the University of Hawai'i, Roger Green of the University of Auckland, and Australian National University colleagues John Chappell, James Fox, Geoffrey Hope, Robert Kirk, Margot Lyon, Douglas Miles, Cecilia Ng, Alan Thorne, and Darrell Tyron. Helmut Loofs-Wissowa of ANU first suggested that I undertake the project. Colin Groves of ANU and Robert Hall of Royal Holloway, University of London, commented on Chapter 1 in the second edition, and John Chappell provided valuable advice on past sea levels. I wish also to thank Donn Bayard of the University of Otago for valuable editorial comments on the whole second edition manuscript. The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University has provided invaluable staff assistance, and in this regard I would like to thank Louise Johnson, Jan Lee, and Anthea Bundock for typing and secretarial help. Joan Goodrum, Mandy Mottram, Kevin

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### **DATING**

In general, I do not give full radiocarbon determinations with laboratory numbers in the text, but interested archaeologists can locate these through the references (see Bronson and White 1992, and Spriggs 1989 for recent date lists for Southeast Asia). Archaeological sites from about 8000 BC onwards are given approximate BC or AD dates according to historical data or the current calibrated radiocarbon chronology (University of Washington, Quaternary Isotope Lab, Radiocarbon Calibration Program Rev. 3.0, 1993). Radiocarbon dated sites older than 10,000 years are generally given a “. . . years ago” approximation.

### **PRONUNCIATION AND PLACE-NAMES**

In Indonesian place-names the “c” is pronounced “ch” as in English “church,” “ng” is pronounced as in “singer,” and “ngg” as in “finger.” Chinese place-names are in Pinyin and Taiwanese in Wade-Giles romanizations.