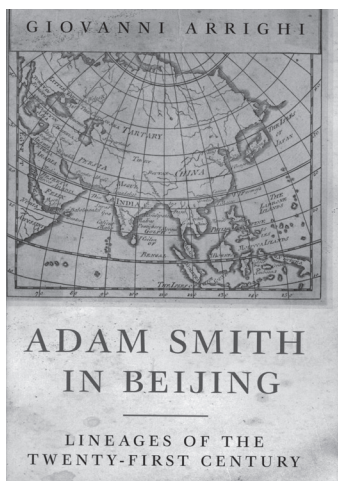# Bookmarked

Adam Smith in Beijing : Lineages of the Twenty-First Century
By Giovanni Arrighi
Verso Books. 2008. ISBN 978 1 84467 104 5

In the late 18th century, the political economist Adam Smith predicted an eventual equalisation of power between the conquering West and the conquered non-West. Demonstrating Smith's continued relevance to understanding China's extraordinary rise, Arrighi examines the events that have brought it about, and the increasing dependence of US wealth and power on Chinese imports and purchases of US Treasury bonds. He traces how the recent US attempt to bring into existence the first truly global empire in world history was done in order to counter China's spectacular economic success of the 1990s, and how the US' disastrous failure in Iraq has made China the true winner of the US War on Terror. Smith's vision of a world market society based on greater equality among the world's civilisations is now more likely than at any time since "The Wealth of Nations" was published in 1776. In the 21st century, China may well become again the kind of non-capitalist market economy that Smith described, under totally different domestic and world-historical conditions.

The Netherlands Indies and The Great War, 1914-1918
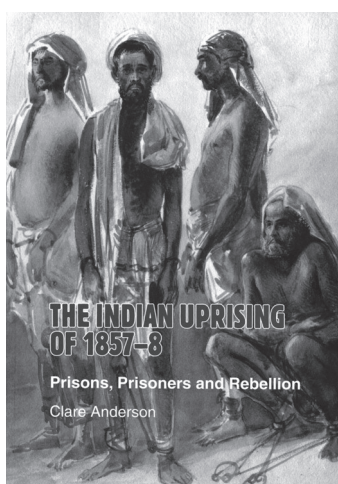By Kees van Dijk
KITLV Press. 2007. ISBN 978 90 6718 308 6

In the first book-length study in English of the Netherlands Indies during the First World War, Kees van Dijk examines the impact of the Great War on the political and economic constellation of the Dutch East Indies. Special attention is given to relations with the mother country, developments in the colonial export sector, the position of the Islamic nationalist movement and the Netherlands Indies as a smuggling station used by Indian revolutionaries and German agents.

World War One had just broken out, but colonial authorities in the Netherlands Indies heaved a sigh of relief: The colonial export sector had not collapsed and war offered new economic prospects; representatives from the Islamic nationalist movement had prayed for God to bless the Netherlands but had not seized upon the occasion to incite unrest. Furthermore, the colonial government, impressed by such shows of loyalty, embarked upon a campaign to create a 'native militia', an army of Javanese to assist in repulsing a possible Japanese invasion. Yet there were other problems: pilgrims stranded in Mecca, the pro-German disposition of most Indonesian Muslims because of the involvement of Turkey in the war, and above all the status of the Netherlands Indies as a smuggling station used by Indian revolutionaries and German agents to subvert British rule in Asia.

By 1917 the optimism of the first war years had disappeared. Trade restrictions, the war at sea, and a worldwide lack of tonnage caused export opportunities to dwindle. Communist propaganda had radicalised the nationalist movement. In 1918 it seemed that the colony might cave in. Exports had ceased. Famine was a very real danger. There was increasing unrest within the colonial population and the army and navy. Colonial authorities turned to the nationalist movement for help, offering them drastic political concessions, forgotten as soon as the war ended. The political and economic independence gained by the Netherlands Indies, a result of problems in communications with the mother country, was also lost with the end of the war.

Kees van Dijk examines how in 1917 the atmosphere of optimism in the Netherlands Indies changed to one of unrest and dissatisfaction, and how after World War One the situation stabilised to resemble pre-war political and economic circumstances.
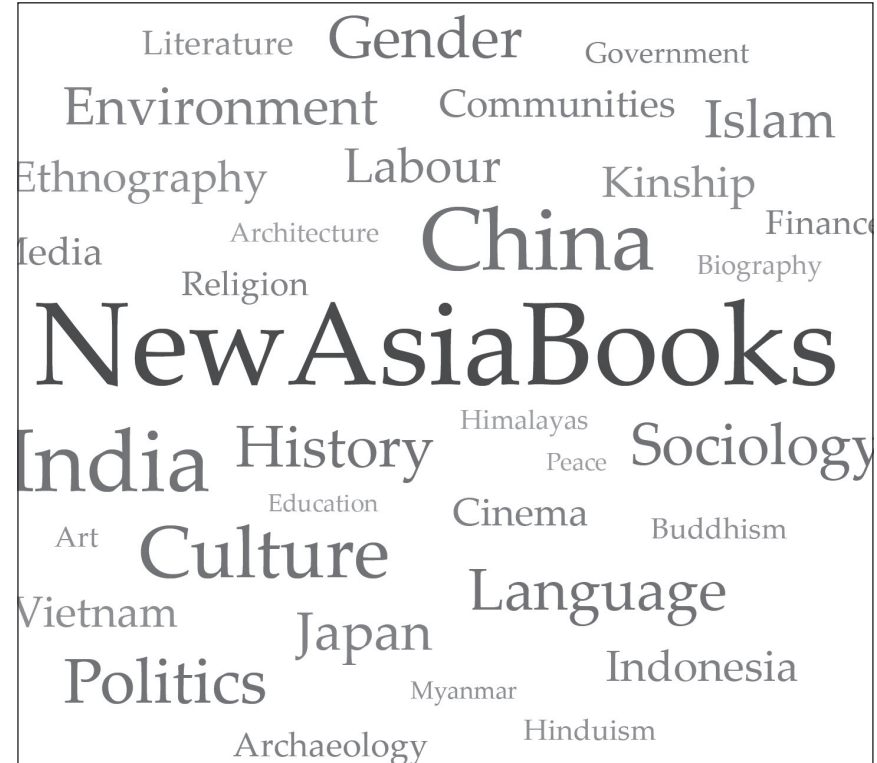
The Indian Uprising of 1857-8: Prisons, Prisoners and Rebellion
By Clare Anderson
Anthem Press. 2007. ISBN 978 1 84331 295 6

During the military, social and economic unrest that spread across North India during the period 1857-8, mutineers and rebels targeted dozens of colonial jails. In what was the largest mass jail break in the history of the British Empire they set over 20,000 prisoners free. Until now, the scale, nature and impact of this phenomenon has remained unexplored.

This fascinating book, based on extensive archival research in Britain and India, examines why mutineer-rebels chose to attack prisons and release prisoners, discusses the impact of the destruction of the jails on British penal policy in mainland India, considers the relationship between India and its penal settlements in Southeast Asi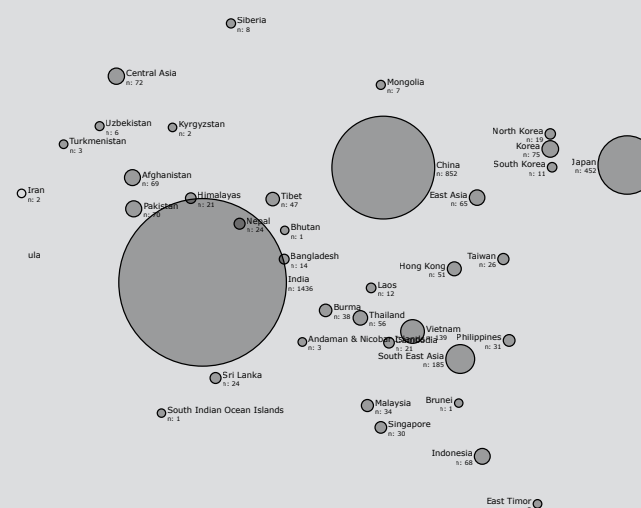a, re-examines Britain's decision to settle the Andaman Islands as a penal colony in 1858, and re-evaluates the experiences of mutineer-rebel convicts there. As such this book makes an important contribution to histories of the mutiny-rebellion, British colonial South Asia, British expansion in the Indian Ocean and incarceration and transportation.

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## Tag clouds in the research sphere

The New Asia Books site is instantly recognisable by its 'tag clouds'. A tag cloud is a weighted list in visual design, a depiction of all the regional and disciplinary categories - mainly within the Humanities and Social Sciences - used to classify the books on New Asia Books. These terms are supplied to us by publishers of academic titles on Asia Studies, and follow the Book Industry Communication (BIC) classification schemes and taxonomy structures (for more information: http://www.bic.org.uk). Those terms, which occur more frequently in our book database, are shown in the cloud with a bigger font. The tag cloud on the home page of New Asia Books shows, for example, that publishers are producing many books related to India, China and Southeast Asia, International Relations, History, and Politics & Government. We can also visualise the regional weight of recent publications in a geo-tag cloud, which shows the prominence of books about India, China and Japan.

The entire navigation structure of the New Asia Books site is driven by classification schemes. A menu on the left hand side provides you with several browsing options, allowing you to drill down through the taxonomies structures. You can browse the categories available and combine them according to your topics of interest. To give an example: selecting 'Malaysia' as initial regional category will bring up thematic subjects such as 'Anthropology', which can be further refined to 'Indigenous peoples'. These terms are also shown in the 'breadcrumb trail' at the top and the pager on the bottom of each product page.

As you might already have noticed, each book is labelled with at least two and often three tags: region, category 1, and category 2. These multiple taxonomies are the so-called 'facets' of a single object. The Indian librarian Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (1892-1972) first developed faceted classification schemes in the 1930s. He recognised that it often isn't sufficient to classify an object in one single taxonomic order only, and that there are multiple dimensions, which describe content. A faceted search option is built into the New Asia Books site, offering you a navigable overview of all the taxonomies used. In addition, multiple navigational paths to any end-term of a book item are shown at the bottom of each product page, and can be filtered out using the refinement menus.

For registered users who are not satisfied with the pre-determined taxonomies, we offer a 'free tagging' option on every product page. This enables you to categorise a book according to your needs. All the free tags are shown in a cloud, representing a bottom-up approach to the classification schemes. Please bear in mind though that this functionality is still being developed. As always, I welcome all your suggestions on how to improve our online services: info@newasiabooks.org
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Thomas Voorter
New Asia Books