Title

<Book Reviews>David Henley, Fertility Food and Fever: Population, Economy and Environment in North and Central Sulawesi, 1600-1930. 2005

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This voluminous book, written by one of KITLV’s researchers, aims to explain demographic change and related environmental transformation in North and Central Sulawesi, during much of its colonial history. The over 700 pages volume is compelling, because of its argument, and because of its extremely rich detail, as the author seems to have unearthed almost every possible source of information that is available on the region. The main thesis of the book is to refute the positive link between demography, productivity and agricultural technology, the Boserup thesis, and suggest a Malthusian mechanism of productivity largely defining demographics, but highly mediated by social cultural and political factors. The 15 chapters of the book painstakingly analyze the many complicated details of this mechanism. The elements of this mechanism include, in the order as they each are presented in separate chapters of the book, disease and mortality, disease control, reproductive fertility, and the link between population and the environment.

About three quarter of the book focus on the demographic history of North and Central Sulawesi, and this constitutes the better part of the book. Summarized, the mechanism that explains demographic is as follows: Disease and poor health causing death, together with low fertility, kept the pre-modern population in a crisis ridden quasi equilibrium. Why a sustained population growth took off since the second half of the 19 th century is one of the overarching questions of the book. Improvements in healthcare, like small pox vaccination and quinine since the early 19th century, and hygiene were for some time outweighed by new diseases like Cholera, or more prominent spreading of malaria as a result of increased migration and trade, related to economic progress and improved transportation networks. Despite these factors, however, the death rates in North and Central Sulawesi regions started to decline during the second half of the 19th century. Food supply was a key factor influencing demographic change. Even though famine was not common in Sulawesi, variations in food supply account for important changes in death rates on account of infant deaths and overall submission to diseases. Hence food is an indirect but key factor in the demographic picture of the regions.

Since the second half of the 19th century, food security increased, largely because of the integration of the region’s economy in wider economic networks which also facilitated food trade. The link between food and demographics becomes only clear, however, if cultural and social factors are considered, including slavery, the role of women and ritual feastings. Markets replaced some of these institutions that appear to have been related with assuring food supply and survival. Fertility also appears to have increased with the onset of incipient modernization because social measures to keep fertility down like delayed marriages, abstinence, abortion, and infanticide were abandoned.

Following the debate on the secrets of North and Central Sulawesi demographic history, the volume veers off into a discussion on vegetation cover change and how the population history related to this. This discussion only takes place in the last three chapters. While the chapters again bring together rich source material on vegetation cover change and related changes in agri-

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cultural production and its effect on vegetation cover, I was left wondering if these chapters, as most of the book, did not serve mostly the purpose on reporting on the scrutiny of large amounts of source materials, much more so than contributing to an academic debate on demography or the demography-environmental link. The chapter that discusses the link between population and the environment explains why North and Central Sulawesi’s landscapes have been transformed, but there are no real surprises that rock our insights on these themes. Why there were extensive grasslands in various parts of Kalimantan and Sumatra, for instance, was already known, and the grasslands of North and Central Sulawesi seem to have been created for similar reasons. Similarly disappointing is the final chapter on population and environment. It turns out a hotchpotch of historical facts and superficial interpretations related to people’s resource user and links with the environment.

The book is a valuable contribution to understanding the demographic history of an important but less emphasized region of Southeast Asia. The rich use of many sources makes this a valuable book that will be useful to people interested in the region and on its archival material, much of which is only in Dutch. The important theoretical contributions are the reflections of the complex mechanisms that define a region’s demographic history, but the environmental history analysis and interpretations provide few new insights. The demographic histories, distinguished for sub-regions, are a result of complicated causal interlinking of productive, social, cultural, political and health factors, that are perhaps much more difficult to generalize as is often assumed. This point would have become more articulated had the volume been limited to that purpose. The chapters on environmental change and its social causes are not very articulated, and this puts into question the environmental history project that the book attempted in addition to pursuing a historical demography project. (Wil de Jong • Center for Integrated Area Studies, Kyoto University)

Adrian C Sleigh; Chee Heng Leng; Brenda SA Yeoh; Phua Kai Hong; and Rachel Safman, eds. Population Dynamics and Infectious Diseases in Asia. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co., 2006. 430p. + index.

はじめに

総勢36名の執筆者による本書の土台となってい
るのは、2004年10月にシンガポールで開催された
国際ワークショップで発表された論文集である。この
ワークショップは、アジアの感染症について分野
を超えての相互情報交換や知見交流が不足している
状況を打開する試みとして、シンガポール国立大学
のAsian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable
Development Analysisとオーストラリア国立大学のNational Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health共催で、アジア、オセアニア、欧米各国から40名を超える研究者を招いて行われた。本書は、ディシプリンを経過した知見交換や知識の
共有の促進のみならず、統合的アプローチの確立に
果敢に挑戦している点で、各分野の研究者に良い刺
激を与える稀な書と言える。

本書は近年みられる感染症の発生傾向を説明する
要因として、移動人口を構成する女性の比率の急増
と都市化という近年アジア地域で顕著な2点に主眼
を置いている。具体例として、1975年時点で25%を
示していたアジアの都市人口が、2030年には
53%に上昇すると予想し、急速に進行する都市化現
象が人々の生活、行動や価値観、政治、経済に多大な
インパクトを与えていると指摘する。さらに、こ
のアジアの都市化による環境汚染は、今後死亡率上
昇と出生率低下を加速するおそれがあると主張す
る。マラリアなどの薬剤耐性が懸念されるなか、
HIV感染者の結核症例が増加し、重症急性呼吸器症
候群(SARS)、高病原性鳥インフルエンザ、エバ
ウィルスなどの新興感染症例も加わり、広範囲化し

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