

Indonesia and the Mass Killings of 1965-1966



Indonesia



Indonesia



- **Location**: Southeast Asia; consists of 5 large islands and about 13,677 smaller islands; Capital city: Jakarta
- Fourth largest Asian country after China, India, and Saudi Arabia – by 2050, will have the 4th largest world economy
- **Topography**: Islands filled with active and inactive volcanoes; earthquakes and tsunamis often devastate Indonesia (1992, 2004)

Indonesia



- **Population**: 221,932,000; #4 in population among the 193 nations in the world
- **Primary language**: Bahasa Indonesia; secondary languages: Malay, Javanese, English, Dutch, among many others

Indonesia



- **Religion**: Islam (over 88%)
- Protestant (over 5%)
- Roman Catholic (over 3%)
- Hindu (almost 2%)
- Buddhist (almost 1%)



Indonesia



- **Colonial influences:**
Dutch; Portuguese
- **Beginning 20th century**
– first steps were taken to give Indonesians participation in government
- **1945** – Independent republic of Indonesia under leadership of Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta



Indonesia



- **Sukarno** became the first President of Indonesia; Hatta, Vice-President in 1949
- In the next two decades, communist leadership and agitation would increase, resulting in the **Mass Killings of 65-66**



September 30th Movement, 1965



- Claimed to be protecting President Sukarno from right-wing faction of the army planning a coup of their own
- After Yani's death, Major General Suharto took command of the army and on October 1st, launched a counter-attack
- Suharto's success in removing rebel forces launched the decline in Sukarno's leadership and the rise of Suharto

Suharto and the Killings



- Suharto accused the Communist party (PKI) of masterminding the coup and used this rationale to exterminate anyone associated with the PKI
- Suharto's military rounded up more than a million and a half people who were accused of being involved with the PKI (Roosa 4).

Suharto and the Killings

- In one of the worst bloodbaths of the 20th century, **hundreds of thousands of individuals** were massacred by the army and paramilitary groups, largely in Central Java, East Java, and Bali from late 1965 to mid 1966 (Roosa 4).



Suharto and the Killings

- In a state of national emergency, Suharto usurped Sukarno's authority and established himself as the de facto president in March 1966 (Roosa 4).



Suharto's New Order Regime

- Suharto's dictatorship known as the New Order Regime, lasted 32 years until his resignation in 1998.
- After the genocide, those who survived the mass killings lived in fear, amongst their perpetrators, as documented in several documentaries.



Post-Suharto Indonesia



- After Suharto's resignation, Indonesia experienced a resurgence of Islamic activity
- Islamic law (Shariah) governs most noncriminal matters involving Muslims such as family law, inheritance, divorce; however, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) rejected the imposition of Shariah for Muslims in 2002 (Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations).

Indonesia and the Media



- Indonesia's media is government-owned through Perumtel, a state enterprise
- Foreign journalism in Indonesia is limited in accordance with the policy that “freedom of expression” does not permit interference in domestic affairs or spreading of foreign ideologies detrimental to the Indonesian system of government (Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations).

Indonesia and the Media

- The government continues to censor foreign films and publications, and Indonesian newspapers have been temporarily closed down for violating news guidelines (Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations).



50 Year Anniversary of the Killings

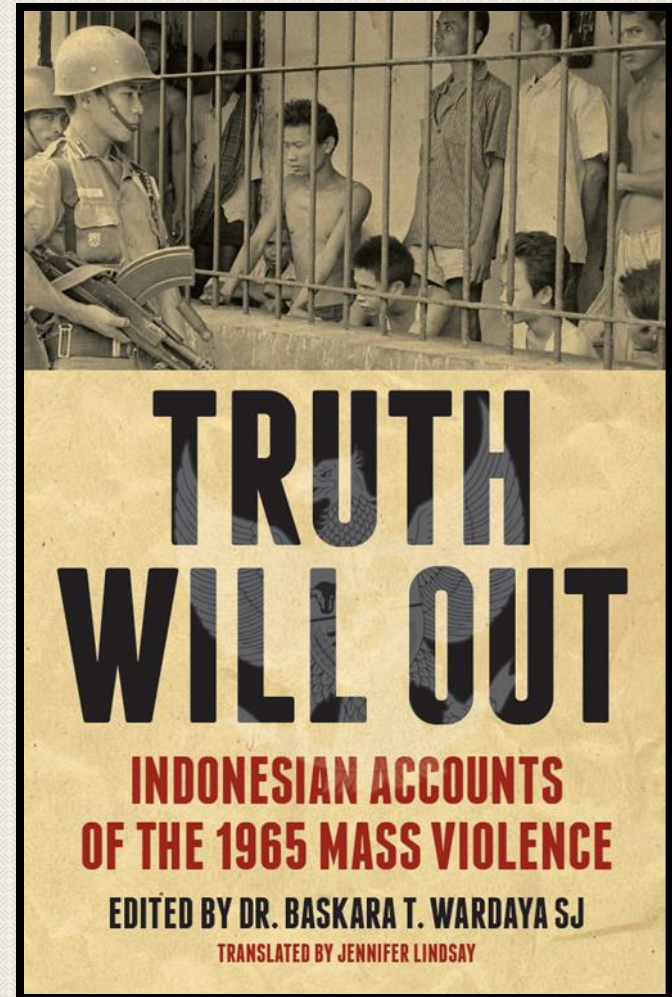
- Today, many Indonesians are attempting to confront the past and encourage truth and reconciliation.
- However, this is a challenge given the current President, Joko Widodo, has refused to apologize to the victims of 65-66.



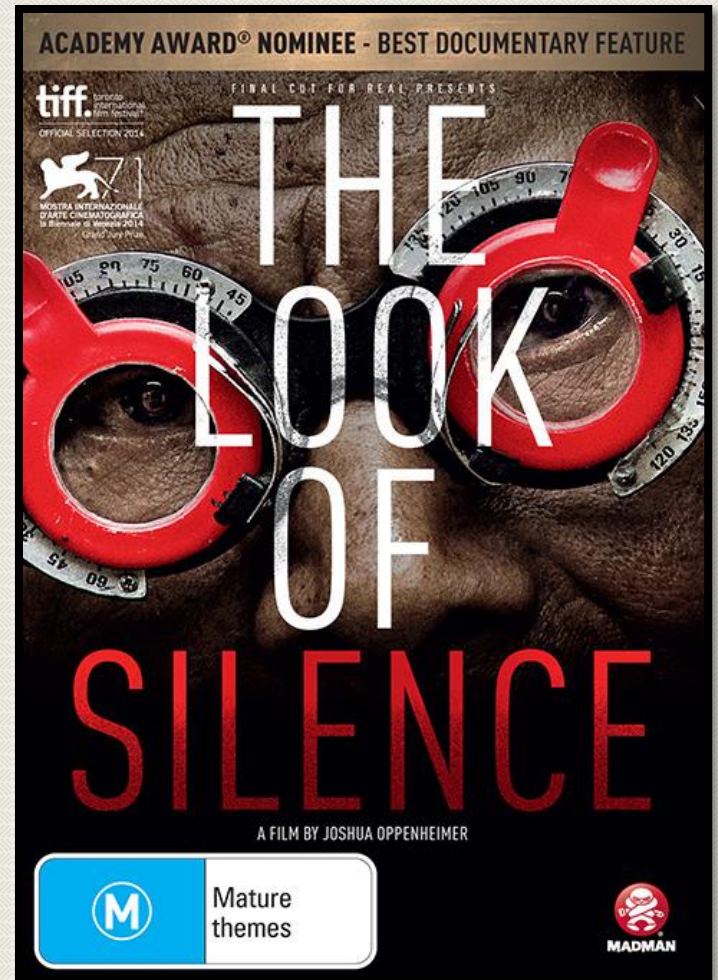
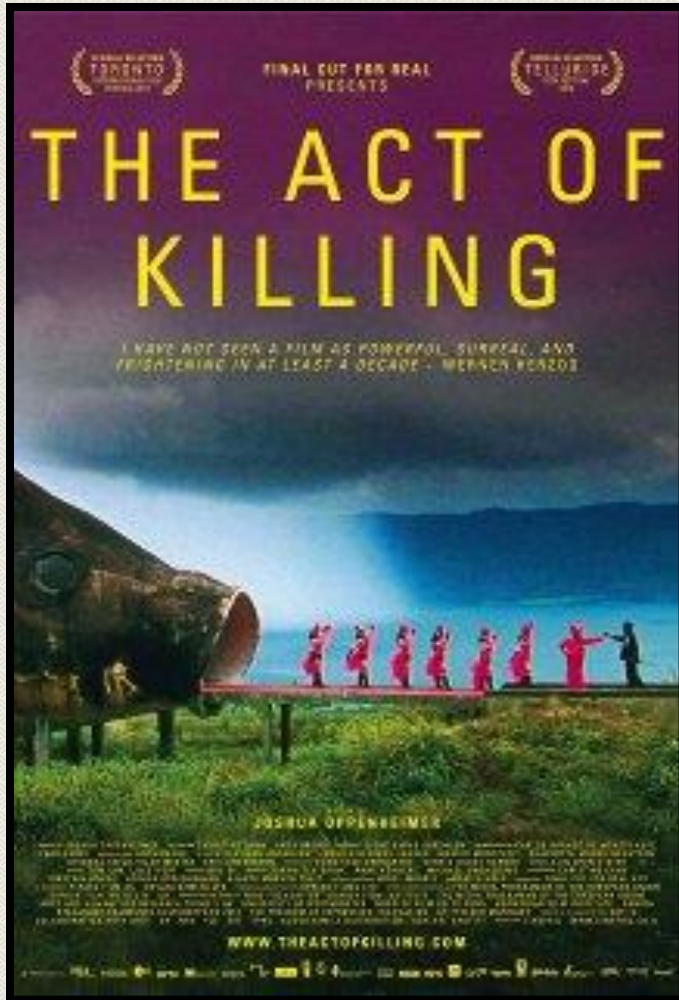
50 Year Anniversary



- In spite of the silence surrounding the mass killings, since 2000, Indonesian academics have published revisionist histories regarding the massacres, and there have been many survivors of the genocide who have courageously published memoirs.



Documentaries of the Indonesian Mass Killings



Questions



Works Cited



- "Indonesia." *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations*. 2007. Print.
- Roosa, John. *Pretext for Mass Murder: The September 30th Movement and Suharto's Coup d'Etat in Indonesia*. N.p.: University of Wisconsin Press, 2005. Print.