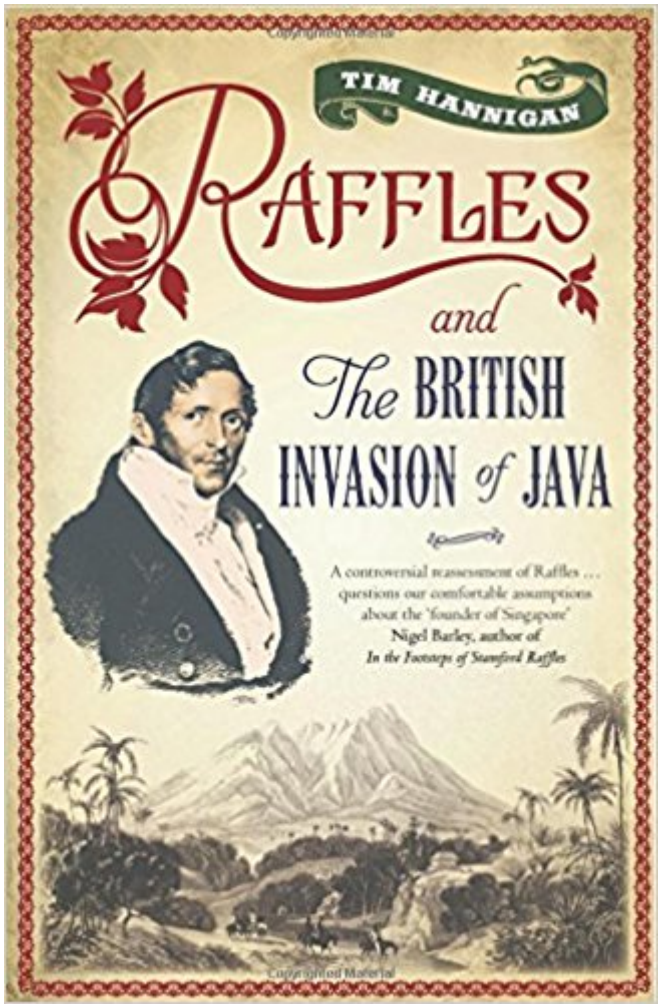
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Raffles And The British Invasion Of Java



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Synopsis

In 1811, an army of 10,000 British redcoats splashed ashore through the muddy shallows off Batavia (now Jakarta) to conquer the Dutch colony of Java. They would remain there for five turbulent years. Drawing on both British and Javanese archival sources, this narrative history-cum-biography explores the bloody battles and furious controversies that marked British rule in Java, and reveals the future founder of Singapore, Thomas Stamford Raffles in a shocking new light.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tim Hannigan (London, UK) is an author and journalist specialising in Indonesia and the Indian Subcontinent. His first book, Murder in the Hindu Kush (The History Press, 2011), is a biography of the intriguing 19th-century British explorer George Hayward, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Boardman Tasker Prize.

I’ve read many academic "Histories" of Java, Raffles and Singapore... And visited theses places, but I never really "got the picture" until I read this book... Its a "Rip Roaring" "Page Turner" that gives the interesting nuances of historical events without resorting to "Novelization"...The Battle of Batavia, usually just a paragraph in most histories, is actually made into an event that you live through...In Short its a History that reads like Its a Novel by an author who clearly has something to say, and isn’t just filling pages with dry lists and events...Even if you’re not into the subject matter of South Asian History...This Book is just a good read about one of the most important "Good" Colonialists of

the Era...

A workmanlike job. Raffles has been much written about, but Hannigan successfullyportrays him as a unique and marvelous character who, despite sometimes being at cross purposes with his employer, the British East India Company rose from obscure beginnings, and little education, to the heights of early 19th century British society. He is a revered and almost mythological figure in Singapore and other parts of Southeast Asia.

Very good explanation of the life and times of that period, and a somewhat different view of Raffles, but well documented.

How interesting to learn "Dutch" Indonesia was five years British! While the Napoleonic wars raged and the War of 1812 was fought all this interesting stuff was changing the history of Indonesia!

I had the Kindle version of this book and it was nearly incomprehensible at times. The history was great but the writing let the history down in a big way.

This book was recommended to me by a friend who is a well renowned Indonesian publisher. I remarked one day to him, "I want to write a book called: Raffles was a badass". He replied, "Its already been written" and handed me this book from the shelf of the bookstore.As a Singaporean, Raffles has been a whitewashed character, a visionary and a unblemished founder of our country. Yet my initial fact findings started to unearth discrepancies. From his dispute with William Farquhar to the way in which Singapore was founded, I knew in my gut that there was more to the story of Raffles.Tim has made spectacular sense and provided a colour about Raffles which surpasses the current dogma. Raffles at the end of the day was a man with his flaws, and I do believe that Tim has done justice in painting a fair picture of a colonialist who was struggling to pursue fame and fortune, and not a altruistic statesman which we have been lead to believe.I thoroughly recommend this book.Thrilling romp through the history of South East Asia.

In 1811, the British invaded the isle of Java to keep it from falling into Napoleonic hands. This was gloriously depicted in pro-British books and fawning biographies of Stamford Raffles, furthermore, amplified by Raffles own monumental book "History of Java".But this book says otherwise. It retells the story of derring-do and skullduggery of an unheralded period in Javanese history. The British

stayed on for 5 mismanaged years before handing the territory back to the Dutch. Key players in this book are Sir Stamford Raffles, Maj Gen Rollo Gillespie, Lord Minto and other supporting characters. This is only obviously apparent now because the author has pieced together documents from various sources, and represented the chronology of events and facts which debunk this period as anything but glorious.The writing style is very accessible.

This was a wonderful book to take along with me on my journey to Java and Singapore. Hannigan did an excellent job in researching not only the material, but also the locale. I had a hard time in Singapore, where everyone idolizes Raffles, to keep from shouting out---you don't know the true story!. Raffles condoned and participated in slavery, launched two needless attacks on native tribes and came out a hero when his wife wrote a glowing postumous biography of her husband just to pay off his bills. Unfortunately later biographers took her story as fact...something that Hannigan refused to do. A great read.

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