

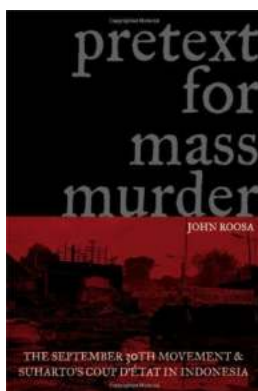
# The September 30th Movement And Suharto Coup Etat In Indonesia: New Perspectives

As we delve into the historical events surrounding the September 30th Movement and Suharto's coup in Indonesia, new perspectives emerge that challenge previous narratives. The intricacies of this tumultuous period in Indonesian history deserve examination from multiple angles, shedding light on the complexities that contributed to these events.

## The Background

Indonesia, a nation marked by its diverse culture and rich history, experienced a significant political upheaval on September 30th, 1965. The events that transpired that day would shape the country's future for decades to come. Understanding the background leading up to the September 30th Movement and Suharto's subsequent coup is essential in grasping the full scope of these historical events.

Prior to the September 30th Movement, Indonesia was under the leadership of President Sukarno, a charismatic figure who had played a pivotal role in the nation's struggle for independence from Dutch colonial rule. Sukarno's presidency witnessed a period of political instability, economic challenges, and tensions between competing factions within the country.



## Pretext for Mass Murder: The September 30th Movement and Suharto's Coup d'Etat in Indonesia (New Perspectives in SE Asian Studies)

by John Roosa (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3775 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 344 pages



The September 30th Movement, also known as G30S, was a failed coup attempt by a group of military personnel who sought to overthrow President Sukarno's government. The coup led to the murder of several top military officials, including General Abdul Haris Nasution's six-year-old daughter. The perpetrators behind the movement later faced retaliation and were swiftly suppressed by Suharto's forces.

## **Previous Narratives and Their Limitations**

For decades, the dominant narrative surrounding the September 30th Movement has been largely shaped by the Suharto regime. Suharto, the man who emerged as a figurehead after the coup, orchestrated a new regime that stayed in power for over three decades. During this period, the official government-approved account of the events portrayed the September 30th Movement as a treasonous act led by the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), and consequently, Suharto's coup was seen as a necessary response to restore order.

However, new perspectives challenge this long-standing narrative, offering alternative insights into the complexities of the September 30th Movement and Suharto's coup. These perspectives argue that the official account serves as a convenient justification for the violent suppression of the PKI and those affiliated with it, resulting in the massacre of an estimated 500,000 to one million individuals.

## **The New Perspectives**

One of the new perspectives suggests that the September 30th Movement was not solely orchestrated by the PKI, but rather involved multiple factions vying for power within the military and political landscape. This hypothesis highlights that the movement was an internal power struggle among various actors seeking to influence Indonesia's trajectory.

Another emerging perspective explores the extent of foreign involvement in the events surrounding the September 30th Movement. It suggests that external forces, motivated by the Cold War dynamics, may have played a significant role in shaping the outcome. This perspective shines a light on the geopolitical influences that impacted Indonesia's internal affairs during this period.

Moreover, additional research also emphasizes the role of historical context in understanding the events. By examining the economic challenges, rampant inflation, and societal tensions of the time, deeper insights emerge on how these factors contributed to the unrest that ultimately led to the September 30th Movement and Suharto's coup.

## **Reshaping the Narrative**

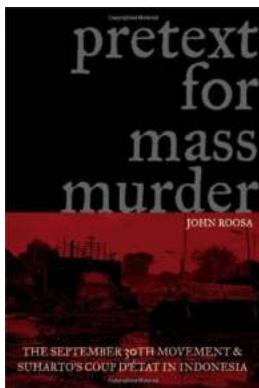
By reevaluating the events surrounding the September 30th Movement and Suharto's coup, these new perspectives aim to reshape the historical narrative. They challenge the one-dimensional portrayal of the movement as solely orchestrated by the PKI and suggest a more nuanced understanding that considers the intricacies of political, social, and economic dynamics at play during that time.

Revisiting history with these new perspectives allows us to delve deeper into the complexities of the September 30th Movement and recognize the multifaceted nature of the events that unfolded. It fosters a more comprehensive

understanding, promotes critical thinking, and encourages an open dialogue about the history that shaped Indonesia's path.

As our understanding evolves and new evidence emerges, it is crucial to continue exploring and questioning long-standing narratives. By doing so, we gain fresh insights, challenge preconceptions, and contribute to a more accurate and inclusive understanding of historical events.

The September 30th Movement and Suharto's subsequent coup represent a pivotal moment in Indonesian history. By examining this period from new perspectives, we challenge the dominant narrative and strive for a comprehensive understanding of the events as they unfolded. The blend of political maneuverings, societal tensions, and potential foreign influence underscores the need for ongoing research and analysis to uncover the truth of this complex history. With each new revelation, our comprehension and appreciation of the September 30th Movement and Suharto's coup evolve, prompting us to take a closer look at our perceptions of historical events.



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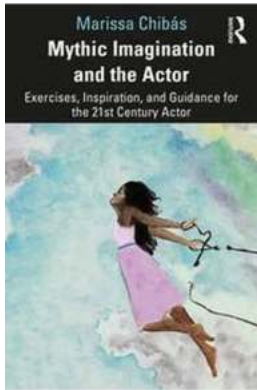
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In the early morning hours of October 1, 1965, a group calling itself the September 30th Movement kidnapped and executed six generals of the Indonesian army, including its highest commander. The group claimed that it was attempting to preempt a coup, but it was quickly defeated as the senior surviving general, Haji Mohammad Suharto, drove the movement's partisans out of Jakarta. Riding the crest of mass violence, Suharto blamed the Communist Party of Indonesia for masterminding the movement and used the emergency as a pretext for gradually eroding President Sukarno's powers and installing himself as a ruler. Imprisoning and killing hundreds of thousands of alleged communists over the next year, Suharto remade the events of October 1, 1965 into the central event of modern Indonesian history and the cornerstone of his thirty-two-year dictatorship.

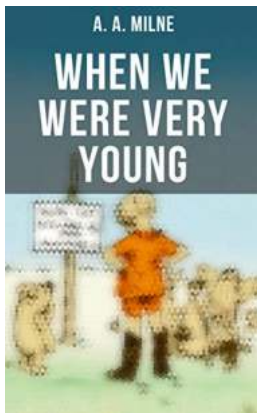
Despite its importance as a trigger for one of the twentieth century's worst cases of mass violence, the September 30th Movement has remained shrouded in uncertainty. Who actually masterminded it? What did they hope to achieve? Why did they fail so miserably? And what was the movement's connection to international Cold War politics? In *Pretext for Mass Murder*, John Roosa draws on a wealth of new primary source material to suggest a solution to the mystery behind the movement and the enabling myth of Suharto's repressive regime. His book is a remarkable feat of historical investigation.

Finalist, Social Sciences Book Award, the International Convention of Asian Scholars



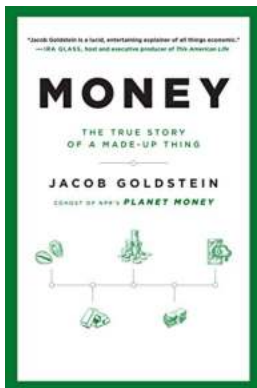
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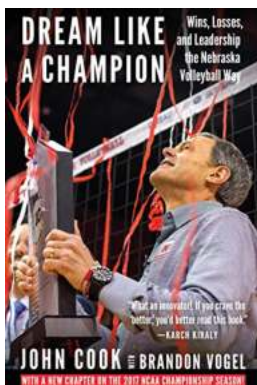
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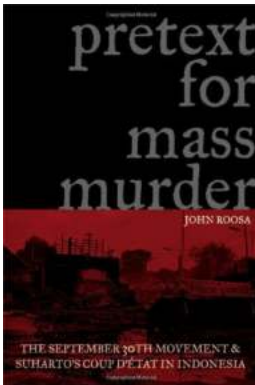
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