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Beyond political skin : convergent paths to an independent national economy in Indonesia and Vietnam

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This study discusses the transformation from a colonial into a national economy in Indonesia and Vietnam. It focuses on two intertwined processes of economic decolonization and reconstruction in the two countries after the Second World War, paying special attention to political and institutional factors involved in these processes. The study demonstrates that, although differences in the political situations resulted in the adoption of divergent strategies, the Vietnamese and Indonesian leadership were in fact pursuing similar long-term goals, namely: attaining an independent national economy. The Indonesian government was determined to get rid of the economic legacy of Dutch colonialism by placing the whole economy under the strong state control and ownership, in accordance with the spirit of Guided Democracy and Guided Economy in the late 1950s and the early 1960s. This effort resembled much the socialist transformation of North Vietnam in the 1950s and the various means by which the government of South Vietnam concentrated economic power in its hands during the late 1950s and the early 1960s.

Phạm Văn Thủy studied World History at Vietnam National University, Hanoi, where he obtained his BA degree in 2005. In 2006, he joined the ENCOMPASS (Encountering a Common Past in Asia) Programme at the Institute for History, University of Leiden and was awarded his second BA and MPhil (Master of Philosophy) degree in 2007 and 2009, respectively. In September 2009, he was appointed to a four-year position as Assistant in Opleiding (AIO) at the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University enabling him to carry out his doctoral research. The research was funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-NWO). Since 2006, he has been appointed as lecturer at the Faculty of History, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. His research interests focus on the political economy of Vietnam, Indonesia and Southeast Asia in the colonial and post-colonial period.

Beyond Political Skin

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*Convergent Paths to an Independent National Economy
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