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Java's last frontier : the struggle for hegemony of Blambangan, c. 1763-1813

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This study presents an analysis of how the Dutch tried to transform *Java's Oosthoek* (Java Eastern Salient, Javanese: *Bang Wetan*) from a wilderness harbouring rebels, the rougher elements of society, and stubborn dissenters opposed to any foreign rule into a frontier of economic progress and colonial state-formation by the beginning of the nineteenth century. Unquestionably, the ever-increasing involvement of the VOC (*Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie*) in the internal political affairs of Java played a crucial role in transforming the *Oosthoek*, but the fact that endogenous factors also provided an impetus to the changes should not be overlooked. A careful scrutiny of both Dutch and Javanese sources is essential in any balanced attempt to reconstruct a detailed and intriguing account of what was happening in *Java's Oosthoek* just as it was poised on the brink of becoming integrated into the Colonial State.



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