

The confluence of water and power: water management in the Brantas river basin from the tenth to the sixteenth century CE Prasodjo, T.

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Propositions

- 1. The shift of political power centre from Central Java to East Java in the tenth century was caused by a combination of intermittent *lahar* flows, structural climate change and the potential of the Brantas river basin for maritime economic development.
- 2. Premodern water management in East Java was not based on the state but on local communities of villages and clusters of villages.
- 3. Differences in the premodern systems of water management in Myanmar Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, and East Java are primarily the result of the ways these regions adapted to climate and physical geography.
- 4. Even if the water management system in premodern East Java was primarily based on local communities, the state actively intervened at the supra-regional level to facilitate transport and ensure fiscal revenues.
- 5. Too often archaeologists work in isolation. Archaeologists need to incorporate in their work the results coming from other disciplines such as geography, hydrology, philology and history.
- 6. Archaeological research on the water management in East Java is hampered by a lack of sophisticated research on the dating of archaeological findings.
- 7. Archaeological research on premodern water management has the potential to contribute to a *longue durée*, global history of the making of different water civilizations.
- 8. Indonesian epigraphic study often operates in isolation. However, for a better understanding of texts epigraphy should not be limited to the linguistic analysis of these texts but should incorporate historical methodologies.
- 9. The participation of local communities in premodern East Javanese water management has proven to be highly sustainable. This could be a lesson-learned for present-day water management which often ignores the potential of community involvement.
- 10. We owe it to the many generations of people who struggled to obtain water security in the past, to take effective measures against the water scarcity that has come from increasing water consumption during the Covid-19 pandemic.