

Writing novels under the New Order: state censorship, complicity, and literary production in Indonesia, 1977-1986

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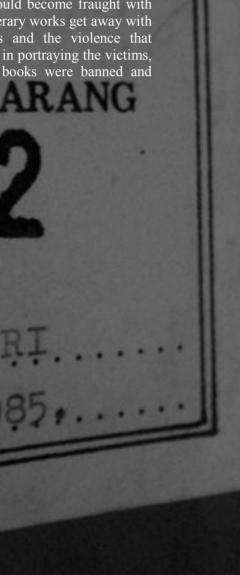
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Within the framework of a larger debate on literary history and censorship studies, this research strives to delve deeper into the role of literature in narrating Indonesia's bleakest pages of history, namely the events of 1965-66 and the mass killings that followed. Keeping in mind that the historical legacy of the events was a matter of grave contention within the authoritarian New Order regime in Indonesia and that to speak directly and write with honesty about them could become fraught with danger, this research asks: Why could some literary works get away with recounting the trauma of the mass killings and the violence that surrounded them, as well as being sympathetic in portraying the victims, while hundreds or even thousands of other books were banned and burned like those of Pramoedya Ananta Toer?



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