

Wednesday, 6th September 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Abstract

This study examines the development of Pancasila philosophy in Indonesia by highlighting the depth of the nationalist struggle in Indonesia in both the Dutch and Japanese era before Indonesian independence. It is widely accepted that Indonesian intellectuals began to think about Indonesian self-rule and an Indonesian identity in the beginning of the 20th Century. This research argues that the balance of power between the different political groups and the way their leaders compromised to try to reach a consensus shaped the modern Indonesian nation of today. Then, during the occupation, Japanese tried to bring the Indonesians to support various Japanese ideals and propaganda concepts. In 1944-1945, Japan implemented *Pancadharma* as a new Indonesian philosophy. Indonesian nationalists defied Japan and changed the concept in 1945 from *Pancadharma* to *Pancasila* to fit their own needs and their own aspirations for the future Indonesian nation they themselves wanted to build. Thus, *Pancasila* was born and remains central to Indonesian identity today. The paper offers the respective meaning of *Pancadharma* and *Pancasila* and their influence on the formation of national identity over time.

Speaker's Profile



Frank Dhont is a Senior Lecturer in History at the IAS. As an Indonesianist and a historian, he is regularly involved in multidisciplinary initiatives and is founder and chair of the International Indonesia Forum. His major research interests include the reactions of both indigenous rulers and ordinary people to Japanese colonialism in the Netherlands Indies during World War II. He is also interested in the history of both World Wars in Asia and the spread of nationalism, especially in the context of colonial empires in Asia. He is currently working on the manuscript of *Outlasting Colonialism: Socio-political Change in the Javanese Principalities under the Japanese Occupation of Indonesia during World War II*.