

MAJAPAHIT'S INFLUENCE OVER WWANIN IN NEW GUINEA  
IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

A sub-thesis to satisfy the requirements  
of Part B of the course of study for the  
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## PREFACE

I had originally intended to write a sub-thesis on the dispute between Indonesia and the Netherlands over the area that now forms the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya. I had planned to use Indonesian sources as far as possible and thereby wittingly adopt an Indonesian-centric view of the dispute. As part of that sub-thesis, I intended to incorporate a section that would examine Indonesia's historical links with Irian Jaya based on such matters as trade, the boundaries of the Javanese Kingdom of Majapahit, and the authority of the Sultan of Tidore over Irian. I did not, however, intend to consider the historical links between various parts of Indonesia and Irian Jaya in any great detail because the historical arguments to justify the Indonesian claim to Irian Jaya were not seen by most Indonesian nationalists as being of particular importance. Indonesia's case primarily rested on the successor-state claim: Irian Jaya had formed part of the Dutch East Indies.

As is the case in many of the 'best laid plans', the topic evolved into something quite different. I did not get past the fourteenth century and links between Majapahit and the Onin Peninsula, and I have not addressed the question of Indonesian sovereignty over Irian Jaya.

This paper, then, attempts to investigate the extent of the influence of Majapahit over the area of 'Wwanin' on the island of New Guinea in the fourteenth century.

I have unfortunately been excluded from a vast array of sources by my inability to read the Dutch language. This paper is, regrettably, the poorer for it.

For convenience sake, I have settled on the words New Guinea to describe the area now known as Irian Jaya.

Finally, I wish to thank Dr A.L. Kumar, Dr C.C. Macknight, and Dr I.M. Proudfoot for their ready assistance whenever I sought it. Dr Kumar very kindly read and commented on the paper. I am of course responsible for any errors of fact and judgement.

IV  
Outline Map of the  
Indian Archipelago  
and Malaya in the  
fourteenth century

