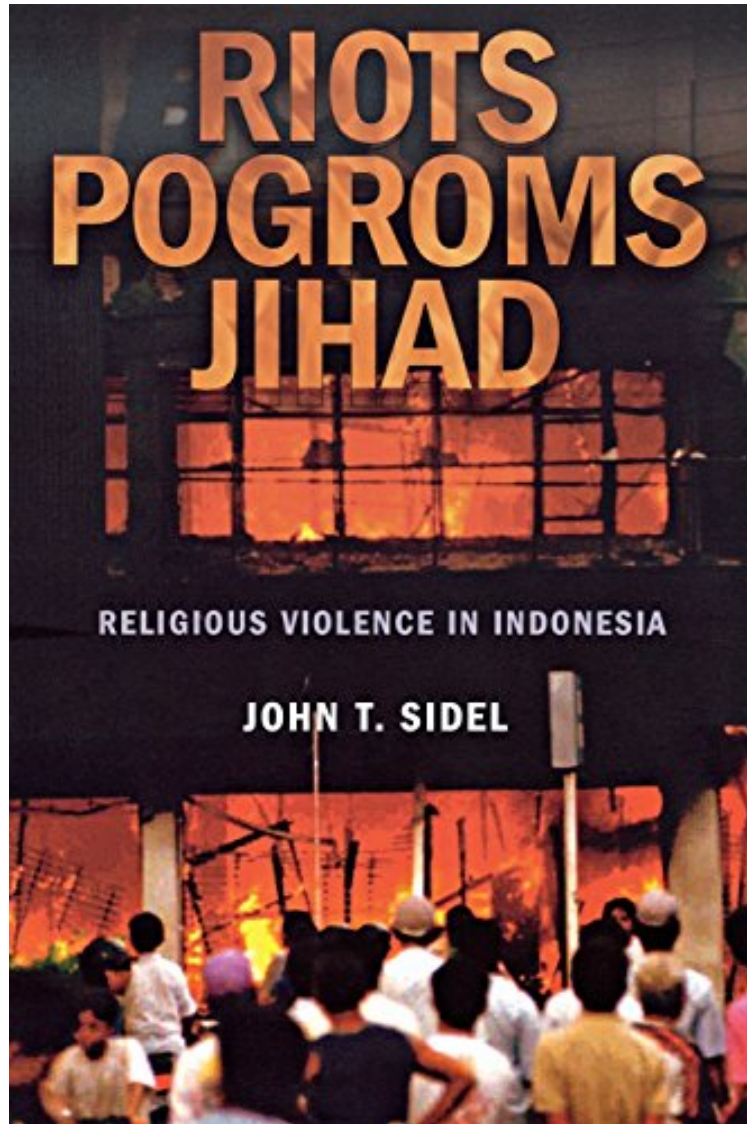



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Riots, Pogroms, Jihad: Religious Violence in Indonesia

John T. Sidel

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John T. Sidel : Riots, Pogroms, Jihad: Religious Violence in Indonesia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Riots, Pogroms, Jihad: Religious Violence in Indonesia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Indonesia Politics By Mr. Carl Halley An excellent book to have to explain as simply as possible the connection between ethnic violence religion and politics in Indonesia. A book everyone needs to read regarding the amazing country of Indonesia. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. perhaps a moderate government will prevail? By W Boudville Sidel chronicles religious violence from 1995-2005 in Indonesia. Sadly, the list of such events is formidable. Some of this was perhaps the cost of transitioning from the

Suharto dictatorship to a pluralist democracy, no matter how imperfect the latter. As the press was freed, and political movements were tolerated, Muslim-inspired groups often became very overt, and some were driven by jihadist sentiment, imported via external Islamist affiliates. The result was violence. Some directed against Christians in the outer islands. And notoriously, against wealthy foreigners blissfully holidaying. Especially in Bali. The terrorist events in the latter island may have been exacerbated by the fact that most of the Indonesian citizens of Bali are Hindu. So to Islamist radicals, the inevitable loss of some citizens in the bombings might have proved little deterrence. It is rather uncertain whether conditions will improve. The central government has held its own quite easily. As the book makes clear, the Islamists have never been able to credibly threaten a nationwide revolt; the unrest in Aceh notwithstanding. And the several national elections held have revealed little in the way of mass support for radical Islam. So perhaps things will simmer down.⁴ of 5 people found the following review helpful. Understanding the Unique Nation That is Indonesia By S. L. Radkovich John T Sidel offers the reader a glimpse into Indonesian society and political culture prevalent in Indonesian history, in his book *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad, Religious violence in Indonesia*. His understanding of Indonesian culture brings clarity to the hazy view of the world's most populated Muslim nation. It is imperative to understand Indonesia's rich history in order to comprehend the development of religious and political violence now habitual in Indonesian society. *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad* brings forth a greater understanding for those looking to discover the origins of violence in Indonesia. While I believe that this book allows one to discover a great deal about the situation Indonesian officials and international dignitaries find themselves in, other sources are required to understand the full scope and connection to today's Jihad. Unfortunately there are few books written on this subject but study of the work put forth by the International Crisis Group, more specifically Sidney Jones, would increase one's understanding of this situation two-fold. Sidel's incredible exploitation of the foundation of Islamic violence in Indonesia is original and unparalleled in the short list of books on analyzing the history of Indonesian violence. His text has brought greater understanding to an issue which is bound to receive increasing analysis in the years to come. With Indonesia's paradoxical role as a 'secular' state with the largest population of Muslims and the 'most democratic Muslim nation in the world', the future terrorist activity is bound to attract attention from western forces as well as near-by nations.

In October 2002 a bomb blast in a Balinese nightclub killed more than two hundred people, many of them young Australian tourists. This event and subsequent attacks on foreign targets in Bali and Jakarta in 2003, 2004, and 2005 brought Indonesia into the global media spotlight as a site of Islamist terrorist violence. Yet the complexities of political and religious struggles in Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country in the world, remain little known and poorly understood in the West. In *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad*, John T. Sidel situates these terrorist bombings and other "jihadist" activities in Indonesia against the backdrop of earlier episodes of religious violence in the country, including religious riots in provincial towns and cities in 1995-1997, the May 1998 riots in Jakarta, and interreligious pogroms in 1999-2001. Sidel's close account of these episodes of religious violence in Indonesia draws on a wide range of documentary, ethnographic, and journalistic materials. Sidel chronicles these episodes of violence and explains the overall pattern of change in religious violence over a ten-year period in terms of the broader discursive, political, and sociological contexts in which they unfolded. Successive shifts in the incidence of violence—its forms, locations, targets, perpetrators, mobilizational processes, and outcomes—correspond, Sidel suggests, to related shifts in the very structures of religious authority and identity in Indonesia during this period. He interprets the most recent "jihadist" violence as a reflection of the post-1998 decline of Islam as a banner for unifying and mobilizing Muslims in Indonesian politics and society. Sidel concludes this book by reflecting on the broader implications of the pattern observed in Indonesia both for understanding Islamic terrorism in particular and for analyzing religious violence in all its varieties.

"John T. Sidel has written an original, wise, and lasting book unlike the vast majority of breathless, ambulance-chasing, and shallow studies of ethnic and religious violence. If you are more interested in the deep historical and structural causes of political violence in the accumulation of social dynamism rather than the particular match that lights the fuse, then, this is the only book you'll need to understand contemporary Indonesia." James C. Scott, Sterling Professor of Political Science and Anthropology, Yale University "John T. Sidel's method and conclusions and, indeed, the very aims of his analysis are pathbreaking. *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad* is destined to become one of the most important works in Indonesian studies of the post-Suharto period. It will be critical to scholars and policymakers eager to understand the dynamics of Indonesian politics and society. Political scientists, historians, and anthropologists working outside of Southeast Asia will also find in this book a fruitful guide to developing new ways of thinking about religion and violence elsewhere in the world." Danilyn Rutherford, University of Chicago "Beneath the many phenomena of violence that John T. Sidel has amply researched, he rightly discerns and repeatedly describes a key role for anxieties about religious identity." Theodore Friend, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia "This is an important and original book that compares diverse contexts and manifestations of religious violence across Indonesia. *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad* is strongly grounded in empirical evidence and the author's deep familiarity with Indonesia." Nancy Lee Peluso, University of California, Berkeley From the Back Cover "John T. Sidel's method and

conclusions and, indeed, the very aims of his analysis are pathbreaking. *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad* is destined to become one of the most important works in Indonesian studies of the post-Suharto period. It will be critical to scholars and policymakers eager to understand the dynamics of Indonesian politics and society. Political scientists, historians, and anthropologists working outside of Southeast Asia will also find in this book a fruitful guide to developing new ways of thinking about religion and violence elsewhere in the world." Danilyn Rutherford, University of Chicago "This is an important and original book that compares diverse contexts and manifestations of religious violence across Indonesia. *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad* is strongly grounded in empirical evidence and the author's deep familiarity with Indonesia." - Nancy Lee Peluso, University of California, Berkeley

About the Author John T. Sidel is Sir Patrick Gillam Professor of International and Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is the author of *Capital, Coercion, and Crime: Bossism in the Philippines* and coauthor of *Philippine Politics and Society in the Twentieth Century*.