Contact:

Feedback2013@rorymarron.com

editorial@seventhcitadel.com

As Imperial Japan's Power Crumbles, the Island of Java braces for the Whirlwind of Revolution

British and Japanese soldiers must join as allies in the face of mob mayhem and slaughter

MANCHESTER (UK) June 2014 -- Japan's surrender ends the second world war but triggers bloody revolution in Java. In a chaotic, mistrustful 'peace', Britain orders the Japanese to help defend the white colonial order. Sworn enemies suddenly become allies—of a kind. British troops, arrive in Java anticipating a warm welcome and easy duties. Soon both their mission and their motives are questioned as they face a new and unexpected enemy. Amidst the fury of siege and massacre, former foes must stand shoulder to shoulder against massive odds, while lovers grasp fleeting moments of calm in the middle of chaos. Yet as new bonds of comradeship form, far older concepts of loyalty and honour demand a deadly finale.

Fact: Within weeks of Japan's surrender in August 1945, British and Japanese troops were fighting side-by-side against Indonesian revolutionaries. In November 1945 a Japanese officer was recommended for a *British* Distinguished Service Order (DSO)… This astonishing but little known 'alliance' serves as the backdrop to the provocative and controversial novel, BLACK SUN, RED MOON: A NOVEL OF JAVA by Rory Marron, which reverses the familiar roles of captor and captive in war-torn Southeast Asia. Hundreds of British, Indian, Gurkha and Japanese servicemen and thousands of internees died in this, the first of the 'savage wars of peace'.

Inspired by an article in the (London) *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, *Black Sun, Red Moon: A Novel of Java* and its conclusion, *Merdeka Rising* are a bold, fictional interpretation of the dramatic and tragic events in Java in 1945-46. Rory Marron pulls no punches. The story begins during the Japanese Occupation of Java, describing internment, torture, forced white prostitution as well as Indonesian grievances and aspirations via a core of intriguing characters. The Japanese surrender is the catalyst for revolution, tragedy and sacrifice….

'Black Sun, Red Moon/Merdeka Rising is an ambitious, unconventional, ultimately compelling saga of men at war, captives, forced prostitution, political dirty tricks and mob terror in Japanese-occupied and revolutionary Indonesia. Marron gives us an almost tangible glimpse of the mayhem that was Java in 1945. His writing, infused with imaginative speculation, is sweeping, poignant, passionate and unflinching.' (Publisher's Catalogue)

> *Like many I had assumed that Japan's surrender had been a calm and orderly 'wrapping up' after the decisive use of the atomic bomb. In fact Asia was plunged into turmoil. Revolutions in Indonesia (then the Netherlands East Indies); Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (then French Indo-China); and civil war in China meant that there was no peace in Asia. World War had fractured into multiple local conflicts whose causes were not 'black and white', instead they were a murky, swirling grey.* Rory Marron.

Want more? Experience Rory Marron's Java! For a sample chapter, historical background information, maps, related contemporary and resource photographs, as well as the full text of the original *Daily Telegraph* article ('Old Soldier Returns Surrender Sword') that inspired *Black Sun, Red Moon: A Novel of Java* visit: www.rorymarron.com.

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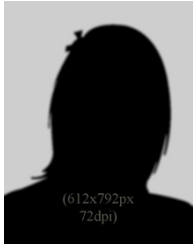
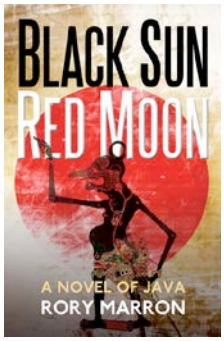
About the Author:



'Rory Marron' (a pseudonym) was born in Lancashire, England. He is an unrepentant 'flags and gun-smoke' historian, specialising in colonial issues in Southeast Asia and Anglo-Japanese relations. His work has been published in a leading, peer-reviewed academic history journal. Rory's doctoral thesis examined British foreign policy and relations with Japan immediately after the Japanese surrender. He lived in Tokyo for several years, working for the international sales department of a large Japanese company. His current interests include yoga and tai-chi. *Black Sun, Red Moon* and *Merdeka Rising* are his first works of fiction. He lives near Manchester, England.

About the Book:



Black Sun, Red Moon: A Novel of Java by Rory Marron. Publisher: Seventh Citadel, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-9576305-2-9. Paperback, price US$12.50/£7.99. Ebook (Kindle) ISBN: 978-0-9576305-0-5, price US$3.99/£2.99. Available from Amazon (all international sites), The Book Depository and as a special order from most bookstores.

Review Copies and Media Interviews:

For a review copy of BLACK SUN, RED MOON: A NOVEL OF JAVA or an interview with Rory Marron, please contact edtiorial@seventhcitdadel.com. When requesting a review copy, please provide street address and details of your publication history as a reviewer.

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