



RISING ASIA
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NOTE ON THE AUTHORS

Romen Bose is an international correspondent with over twenty-two years of reporting experience in Southeast Asia, who worked as a Political Communications Consultant for former Malaysian Premier Najib Razak for six years. Before setting up his own consultancy, Romen was head of Asian social media at IHS Markit and worked as a senior foreign correspondent with international news agency Agence France Presse based in Kuala Lumpur. He was the founding president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Malaysia and a senior producer with the English service of Al Jazeera International when it opened its regional base in Malaysia. Prior to this, Romen was the Indochina Bureau Chief for Channel News Asia, Assistant Director for the north-west India region at the Singapore Tourism Board, and also consulted for the United Nations. Romen has researched and written extensively on the Second World War and its impact on Southeast Asia. His recent book, *Final Reckoning: An Insider's View of the Fall of Malaysia's Barisan Nasional Government*, was published by Penguin Random House in December 2021.

Jing Chen is currently studying theater at Wake Forest University, North Carolina, United States. She is broadly interested in modern China studies, gender studies in the Chinese context, and East Asian cinema studies. As a co-author, her essay “Human–Elephant Conflict in China: A Review of Current Management Strategies and Future Directions” has appeared in *China Global Dialogue*, and her article “The Emperor is a Woman!’ Changing Representations of Empress Wu in Chinese Popular Culture, 1939–2010,” in *Rising Asia Journal*.

Ryan Kerr is an English PhD student at the University of Florida. He holds an MA in English from the University of Virginia and a BA in English with a minor in political science from the University of Arkansas. His research concerns the intersection of modernism, postmodernism, global politics, and media. Kerr uses a blend of Marxist theory and postcolonial theory to investigate the political implications and ideological underpinnings of various forms of media. His current dissertation work focuses on periodizing capitalist realism from high British modernism to post-WWII Britain. Kerr’s article “Empathy, Decolonization, and the Oppressed in *Ulysses*” has appeared in *Joyce Studies Annual*, and his article “Keeping Up the Good Work: Depictions of Class, Economics, and Capitalism in ‘Frank’s Return’” has appeared in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*. He has a book review published in *ImageText: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies*, and he has work forthcoming in *James Joyce Quarterly*. He is currently the president of the Marxist Reading Group at the University of Florida, and he is a member of the International James Joyce Foundation, and the International David Foster Wallace Society.



Marietta Kosma is a DPhil Student in English at Oxford University with a Master of Arts degree in Ancient Greek Theater (2019–2020) from the University of the Aegean, graduating with honors. She earned her Master of Arts in English (2017–2018) at Jackson State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature (2013–2017) at the European University Cyprus. She works as a contributing writer and creative team member for *The Oxford Student* and *Cherwell* (February 2021–present) and contributing writer for the Human Rights section with Right for Education Oxford (January 2021–present). She presented her paper, “Shifting Tides: Forbidden Territories of Desire and Transgression in Gayl Jones’s *Corregidora*,” at the “Shifting Tides, Anxious Borders” conference, Binghamton University, New York, April 2021. Her publications are: “The Force of Nonviolence: An Ethico-Political Bind: Book review,” *Cherwell*, January 2021; “Bodies that matter; re-(ad)dressing the canon in Euripides’ *The Bacchae*,” *Electryone*, March 2021, and a “Review of Sensory experiments; Psychophysics, Race, and the Aesthetics of feeling by Erica Fretwell,” *Essence & Critique: Journal of Literature and Drama Studies*, June 2021. She is fluent in Greek, Ancient Greek, English, French, Italian, Latin, and Chinese (beginner).

Long Shih Rome was born in Singapore and raised as a Malaysian citizen, studied and lived in England and France throughout his primary school years before returning to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to complete his secondary schooling. In 1984, Long obtained a Bachelor of Science (Economics) honors degree, majoring in International Economics & Development at the London School of Economics & Political Science. He started his career in auditing at Price Waterhouse Kuala Lumpur before venturing briefly into business journalism for two

years, first at the *Star* daily newspaper in Malaysia and then at the *Business Times* of Singapore. Between 1989 to 1998, he worked as a senior equity analyst with various international investment banks ranging from OCBC Singapore to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in Kuala Lumpur. After the Asian Financial Crisis, Long went back to journalism as the chief editor of *Smart Investor*, one of the leading financial magazines in Malaysia. During his five years at *Smart Investor*, he wrote cover stories on economics and investment topics including interviews with Nobel Prize Economics laureates Robert Mundell and Joseph Stiglitz in one issue on an Asian common currency regime. Long returned to the research line in 2003 with his current position as head of economics research at Public Mutual Bhd. Backed by a team of analysts, he oversees the macroeconomic research on the United States, China, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Ryan Mitra is currently pursuing a Masters in International Affairs at The Graduate Institute Geneva. While specializing in global security, his areas of interest are Asian geopolitics, Maritime Affairs, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Migration. He has previously interned with the United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Indian Ministry of External Affairs while also actively writing on matters pertaining to Indo-Pacific maritime security and strategy, refugee and humanitarian affairs, and post-colonial statehood history and theory. Some of his recent publications are “India’s Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2020 and beyond,” in the *Liberal Studies Journal* (February 2, 2022); “The Fight Against the Covid-19 Pandemic in the Context of Human Rights, International Cooperation, and Solidarity,” published by the UN OHCHR (January 4, 2022); and



“Sardar Udham Singh, the Oscars, and Colonial Amnesia,” published in *The Diplomat* (November 8, 2021).

Tian Mashuang is a PhD student at the Department of History, Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, majoring in global history and South Asian history. He received a Bachelor of Laws degree at the School of International Studies, Peking University, and double-degrees of Master of Science at Peking University and the Department of International History, London School of Economics. His Master’s thesis focused on international relations, and China’s relations with South Asia and the Middle East. Mashuang has published on topics of history, hydro-politics, and diplomacy in several Chinese journals such as *China Public Administration Review* (Gonggong Guanli Pinglun), *Henan Social Sciences* (Henan Shehuikexue), and *Southeast Asia and South Asia Studies* (Dongnanya Nanya Yanjiu). He participated in an academic research project on Révolution de jasmin in Tunisia. Mashuang is now working on his PhD research on South Asian history of tea plantations and the dynamics within society, environment, tourism, and green revolution, specifically on the case of Ceylon tea and the making of modern Sri Lanka.

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Toh Han Shih holds a B.S. in physics from the California Institute of Technology, and a doctorate in physics from Oxford University. He also has a Master’s in Southeast Asian Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and has completed a part-time Master’s in Economics at Hong Kong University. Han Shih is a Singapore-born writer resident in Hong Kong with twenty years of experience reporting on business and economics related to China, including ten years as a

reporter with the *South China Morning Post*. In December 2016, he published the book, *Is China an Empire?* From 2007 to 2008, he worked at Kroll, and in the late 1990s, he was a reporter at the *Business Times* in Singapore. He was also a senior correspondent of MLEX, a regulatory risk news agency, and senior reporter of *Finance Asia*, a financial trade publication. He is currently chief analyst of Headland Intelligence, a Hong Kong risk consultancy.

Vasuki Shastry is an Associate Fellow in the Asia Pacific program of Chatham House in London, where his research interests include Asian economic integration and the interplay between technology and democracy. He has worked in the public and private sectors at the International Monetary Fund, the Singapore central bank, and Standard Chartered Bank, where he was Global Head of Public Affairs and Sustainability. Shastry is the author of *Resurgent Indonesia: From Crisis to Confidence* (Singapore: Straits Times Press, 2018), and most recently *Has Asia Lost It? Dynamic Past, Turbulent Future* (Singapore: World Scientific, 2021).