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The Weapon on the Wall

Murray Dyer

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plenty, the wars and revolts, the military coups and uprisings, and the Communist programming behind the scenes. Intimate portraits of the leading political figures of Indonesia are painted with fine and broad strokes. Interviews with the country's present-day leaders, including President Sukarno, former Prime Minister Hatta, Colonel Nasution, Sjahrir, the Sultan of Jogjakarta and Tom Malaka, the Communist leader, prove fascinating and enhance the readability of this excellent story. The account of the proclamation of Indonesia's independence in 1945 by Sukarno and the rebellion of February 1958 are vividly described and give a valuable insight into this republic of islands. In conclusion, Fischer is confident and hopeful about a bright future for Indonesia. He is forthright, however, in his recommendations of the measures Indonesia and her leaders must impose if her rosy future is to be adequately fulfilled.

Dyer, Murray. *The Weapon on the Wall*. Baltimore, Md., Johns Hopkins Press, 1959. 269 p.

The weapon which the author deals with in this book is psychological warfare or, as he sometimes refers to it, political communication in its broadest sense, including both overt and covert types. The writer, rightly or wrongly, has assumed that his average reader neither understands what the weapon is nor its great significance. He describes in detail and with a certain amount of repetition the role and importance of psychological warfare, its place in our free world society, its advantages and limitations and the required operating principles which are necessary for effective utilization of this weapon. After having described its significance and the many problems surrounding it, he devotes the latter part of the book to suggesting the various ways whereby the United States might overcome these problems. This volume represents the author's sincere and factual approach to the use of psychological warfare by the United States in hot or cold war.