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The contributions to this volume stem from papers delivered at the international workshop "Man and Environment in Indonesia, 1500-1950," held in June 1996 at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden. Scholars of geography, history, development, and anthropology explore the natural background against which Indonesian society came into being, and the effects of climatic variability and change. They reflect on questions of sustainability, the significance of natural hazards, and the importance of a long-term historical perspective, particularly when confronted with current cases of environmental degradation.

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