

# **GROWTH OF A MEGACITY**

*Planning Jakarta in the  
Post-Suburban Era*

**Edited by Deden Rukmana  
and Sonia Roitman**



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Central Jakarta, with high-rise buildings in the Kuningan Business District  
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to make Jakarta and other Indonesian cities  
a better place to live for all*



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## PREFACE

*Growth of a Megacity: Planning Jakarta in the Post-Suburban Era* is a collective effort several years in the making. In 2019 we embarked on a massive project analyzing the current situation of cities in Indonesia. The aim was not only to communicate to the world the impressive urban transformation that occurred in Indonesia but also to provide examples from a great diversity of cities. We wanted to avoid the bias of just referring to the cities that are usually the focus of discussions in urban studies in the country. We wanted to explain how other cities, of different sizes and with different histories, were growing and changing. This is how *The Routledge Handbook of Urban Indonesia*, edited by Sonia Roitman and Deden Rukmana, was born. The 2023 book consists of twenty-seven chapters and discusses nineteen Indonesian cities. These cities include one megacity of over ten million residents (Jakarta), seven metropolitan cities of between one million and ten million residents (Surabaya, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Semarang, Makassar, Palembang, and Bogor), two large cities of between five hundred thousand and one million residents (Malang and Solo), seven medium cities of fewer than five hundred thousand residents (Ambon, Banda Aceh, Mataram, Pontianak, Cirebon, Salatiga, and Ternate), and two small cities of fewer than one hundred thousand residents (Jepara and Wonosobo). Before this book came to light, many of these cities had never been featured in the urban planning literature in English and had remained invisible in urban planning discussions.

Energized by the great success of the 2023 book, and considering that we had received sixteen abstracts on Jakarta and only two of those had been included in the urban Indonesia book, we began discussing the possibility of starting on a new book adventure. Jakarta is a city that millions love but in which many other millions suffer. The great academic interest in this city began prior to colonial times. It was important for the new book to fill the knowledge gaps in relation to the development of Jakarta, offering new ideas and new data.

The book we are now presenting to the public analyzes the growth of this megacity called Jakarta. The city has continued to grow since before its

independence. It comprises over thirty million residents and has taken the form of *post-suburban development*, with interesting dynamics between the inner and outer suburbs in relation to land use and responses to urban challenges. The book discusses the current economic, environmental, and social challenges facing Jakarta and offers some reflections regarding the future of the city. We hope it contributes to the rich academic and policy debates on Jakarta.

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