

# Capitalism and Confrontation in Sumatra's Plantation Belt, 1870-1979

*Ann Laura Stoler*

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**Ann Laura Stoler : Capitalism and Confrontation in Sumatra's Plantation Belt, 1870-1979** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capitalism and Confrontation in Sumatra's Plantation Belt, 1870-1979:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Plantation Workers As Human Beings By Chimonsoho First published in 1985, Ann Stoler's book is among the finest studies of plantation economies. It details the overall economic framework that made tropical produce crucial to modern global industry, but never treats migrant workers as abstractions or mere units of labor. The discussion of settled migrants' post-plantation survival strategies is particularly acute: their new villages permitted a degree of autonomy, while also supplying surplus labor to latifundia on terms more of their own making. Stoler's 1995 preface, reflecting more recent postmodernist concerns, will not suit everyone, but it shows skill in reinterpreting her own research. A landmark in an impressive line of Indonesian agrarian studies. (Cf. earlier classics by Furnivall, Geertz, more recently Hefner, Peluso, Tsing, etc.)

Over the last century, North Sumatra has been the site of one of the most intensive and successful pursuits of foreign agricultural enterprise of any developing country. Colonial expansion by Europeans resulted in overt--sometimes violent-- conflict between capital and labor, as workers resisted plantation interests. Capitalism and Confrontation in Sumatra's Plantation Belt, 1870-1979 is a fascinating ethnographic history that analyzes how popular resistance

actively molded both the form of colonialism and the social, economic, and political experience of the Javanese laboring communities on Sumatra's plantation borders.

From the Back Cover *Capitalism and Confrontation in Sumatra's Plantation Belt, 1870 - 1979* is a fascinating ethnographic history that analyzes how popular resistance actively molded both the form of colonialism and the social, economic, and political experience of the Javanese laboring communities on Sumatra's plantation borders. In a new preface to this edition, Ann Laura Stoler reflects on her book as a historical document, exploring its timing at the cusp of a more general shift in the anthropology of political economy and colonial studies. This volume will prove invaluable to students across a range of disciplines, including not only history and anthropology but political science and sociology.