

# THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE 1955

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# HISTORICAL CONTEXT: THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE

- From April 18 to 24, 1955
- 1<sup>st</sup> Asian-African Conference held in Bandung (Indonesia)
- 29 Asian and African states participated
- Birth for the Non-Aligned Movement



Source: <https://www.berlinerkolleg.com/en/profile/museum-konperensi-asia-afrika>

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARTICLE

“Beyond Bandung: the 1955 Asian-African Conference and its legacies for international order”

- Author: Andrew Phillips
- Published in 2016
- Collection from a workshop for Bandung's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Long-term systemic impact on the evolution of the global international order
- Opportunities for Afro-Asian cooperation
- Bandung's legacy still shape Indonesia's approach to order-building



# THE AUTHOR'S MAIN ARGUMENTS

The four faces of Bandung:

1. The conference's message of anti-racism and anti-colonialism (**order-challenging aspect**)
2. Asian and African participants affirmed existing key organizing principles (**order-affirming aspect**)
3. The conference pushed the south-south cooperation (**order-building aspect**)
4. There were appeals to transcend Western imposed visions of political order (**order transforming aspect**)
5. The conference led to the "Bandung divide" between Australia and Indonesia

# THE AUTHOR'S 1<sup>ST</sup> MAIN ARGUMENT & EVIDENCE

## I. Order-challenging: Message of anti-racism anti-colonialism

- Fluidity of the international system
- Still racist hierarchy and imperialism
- Large constituency to condemn colonialism
- Foundation for non-aligned movement

## THE AUTHOR'S 2<sup>ND</sup> MAIN ARGUMENT & EVIDENCE

2. Order-affirming: Asian and African participants affirmed existing order's key organizing principles

- Western actors fear of the breakdown of the international society
- Assumption: Bandung states don't affirm western policy principles
- But: existing order's key organizing principles were affirmed by Bandung states
  - Preference for sovereign nation state
  - UN human rights

## THE AUTHOR'S 3<sup>RD</sup> MAIN ARGUMENT & EVIDENCE

### 3. Order-building: The conference pushed the south-south cooperation

- Previous attempts to prevent Afro-Asia cooperation
- Hope to create a new international order with a focus on Africa and Asia
- Bandung conference = call for greater south-south cooperation



## THE AUTHOR'S 4<sup>TH</sup> MAIN ARGUMENT & EVIDENCE

4. Order-transforming: there were appeals to transcend western imposed visions of political order

- Affirmation contradictory to national appeals
- May have helped increasing authoritarianism in developing countries
- Pan-Africa idea got displaced

## THE AUTHOR'S 5<sup>TH</sup> MAIN ARGUMENT & EVIDENCE

### 5. The conference led to the “Bandung Divide” between Australia and Indonesia

- Different orientation towards existing international order
- Indonesia: postcolonial revisionism; pluralism
- Australia: loyalism to western dominated international order
- Conference foreclosed strategic partnership between Australia and Indonesia



# ARGUMENTS ...

... supported by evidence?

- Published in a collection
- Underlines arguments with many examples
- Refers to several different articles
- No primary source or statistics

... presented in a clear and consistent way?

- Clear structure of the article
- Historical context
- Detailed explanation of the four faces of Bandung

Agree or disagree?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!