This dissertation is an attempt to make a study of Japan's relations with two Southeast Asian countries, namely the Philippines and Indonesia. The period covered by this study extends from 28 April 1952 to 15 July 1960. The selection of the countries as well as the period is not without significance. The Philippines and Indonesia, who attained sovereignty in 1946 and 1949 respectively, represented during the 1950s two different ideologies; the former was a staunch ally of the Western bloc, and the latter a firm believer in the policy of non-alignment in international relations. It would therefore be interesting and useful to examine how Japan, being herself an ally of the Western bloc, conducted her relations with these two new-born Southeast Asian countries after the end of the Allied Occupation. As for the period, the study covers broadly eight years, starting from 28 April 1952, the day the peace treaty came into effect, to 15 July 1960, the day Kishi Nobusuke's Premiership ended. These eight years constituted a formative period in Japan's relations with the Southeast Asian region in general, and with the Philippines and Indonesia in particular. During these crucial years she made a cautious but persistent effort to come close to the Southeast Asian region which she had subjugated during the Second World War.

Though there are a number of competent studies on Japan's relations with the region during the pre-war and war years, no attempt has, so far, been made to study Japan's relations with the Southeast Asian region during the post-war period. This study is a modest attempt to fill this gap.
Although I knew that not all official documents concerning the period would be easily accessible to me, I undertook this study in the belief that it would be possible to do justice to the subject all the same with the help of the published documents, both official and non-official.

The first chapter is devoted to a study of Japan's relations with the Philippines and Indonesia until the end of the Second World War. The second chapter deals with the attitudes of the Philippines and Indonesia towards the re-emergence of Japan as an independent sovereign nation in April 1952. The third chapter discusses the efforts Japan made to settle the reparations problem. A discussion of Japan's overall Southeast Asian policies and the response of the Philippines and Indonesia follows in the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter is devoted to an examination of Premier Kishi's efforts to forge closer relations with Southeast Asian countries in general, and with the Philippines and Indonesia in particular. In the sixth chapter, an attempt is made to see how far Japan succeeded in winning the confidence of the two Southeast Asian countries. The chapter also examines the extent to which Japan progressed in the implementation of her reparations obligations, and trade relations. The last chapter carries the concluding remarks.

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