This resource list is compiled by Cherie McCabe of the San Diego Public Library. It provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the PVO documentary *The Act of Killing*.

An Oscar® nominee and the most honored documentary of 2013, this dreamlike, terrifying film asks Indonesian death-squad leaders to dramatize their roles in genocide. In a mind-bending twist, they play both themselves and their victims. Winner, 2014 BAFTA Film Award, Best Documentary.

**ADULT NON-FICTION**


**Caldwell, Malcolm. Ten Years’ Military Terror in Indonesia. Nottingham: Spokesman Books, 1975.** Published by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, this book is comprised of 14 articles by 13 authors who explore and analyze the coup, the Suharto regime and the part it played in imperialist strategy.

**Hellwig, Tineke (Editor) and Eric Tagliacozzo (Editor). The Indonesia Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009.** Comprehensive and organized chronologically, *The Indonesia Reader* conveys the long history and the cultural, ethnic, and ecological diversity of this far-flung archipelago nation.


**Hunter, Helen Louise. Sukarno and the Indonesian Coup: The Untold Story. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2007.** A unique and original examination of the events that culminated on that night in September, 1965. It is the first detailed account of the Indonesian Coup that reveals the previously unknown workings of the PKI’s ultra-secret Special Bureau, a clandestine organization within the Communist Party that may be the prototype of similar entities that flourished around the world in the mid-50’s and 60s.


**Lane, Max. Unfinished Nation: Indonesia Before and After Suharto. London: Verso, 2008.** This book traces the evolution of Indonesia from its anti-colonial stirrings in the early twentieth century to the lengthy, and eventually victorious, struggle against the dictatorship of President Suharto. Taking in the role of political Islam, this is an illuminating account of modern Indonesian history.


**Nevins, Joseph. A Not-So-Distant Horror: Mass Violence in East Timor. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005.** In 1999 East Timor voted for independence from Indonesia to a brutal military occupation. Indonesian troops then launched a wave of terror that resulted in the murder and the rape of untold numbers of women and girls.


**Robb, James. China, Class Collaboration, and The Killing Fields of Indonesia in 1965. 2014.** During the 1965-66 slaughter in Indonesia, terrified PKI (Beijing-oriented Indonesian Communist Party) supporters appealed to the authorities to be spared, the price of staying alive was to join in the murder.


NON-FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


Springer, Jane. Genocide Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2006. What is genocide? What is the impact on humanity of wiping out entire groups of people? Who are the endangered human beings in today’s world? This thoughtful book helps young readers understand these and other difficult questions.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Watson, James. Justice of the Dagger. London: Puffin, 1998. "Greenboots" Hans Mueller, a crusading western journalist, befriends the indigenous people of East Timor and tells the world about the atrocities committed by the Indonesian forces, as they plunder the forests and obliterate local culture. Then the sadistic Colonel Fario puts a price on his head.

Bailie, Allan. Treasure Hunters. Camberwell, Victoria, Australia: Puffin Books, 2002. Pat has joined his father on an old boat off the coast of a troubled Indonesian island to search for treasure. But as they follow a trail of clues to the world’s richest shipwreck the violence on the islands coils around them.

Delve Deeper into The Act of Killing

A film by Joshua Oppenheimer

and the enabling myth of Suharto’s repressive regime. His book is a remarkable feat of historical investigation.


Sukanta, Putu Oka and Jennifer Lindsay. Breaking the Silence: Survivors Speak About the 1965–66 Violence in Indonesia. Monash University Press, 2014. Edited by former political prisoner Putu Oka Sukanta, this is a collection of accounts from people around the archipelago who experienced the 1965 violence in Indonesia. These accounts, including one from a perpetrator who is now tormented by guilt, and survivors who still feel isolated and rejected by society, show how the violence continues to influence Indonesian society.

André Vltchek and Rossie Indira. Exile: Conversations with Pramoedya Ananta Toer. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2006. In these remarkable interviews with Indonesia’s most celebrated writer, he speaks out against tyranny and injustice and discusses personal and political topics he could never before address in public.

ADULT FICTION

Hirata, Andrea and Angie Kilbane. The Rainbow Troops. New York: Sarah Crichton Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Written as homage to his elementary school teacher and classmates, the story’s honesty and humor will warm your heart and leave you with a feeling of hope. Hirata is the country’s best-selling writer of all time.

Tohari, Ahmad. The Dancer: A Trilogy of Novels. Jakarta: Lontar Foundation, 2003. Set in the tumultuous days of the mid 1960s, The Dancer describes a village community struggling to adapt to a rapidly changing world. It also provides readers with a ground-level view of the political turmoil and human tragedy leading up to and following the abortive Communist coup.