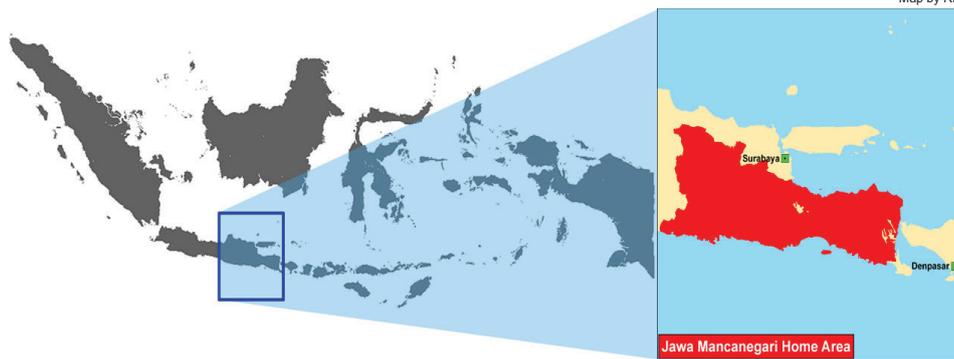


JAWA MANCANEGARI



Demography	Jawa Language	Status
Location: East Java Population: 20.000.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: Yes Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: Yes (Kromo)	Believers: <30.000 Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: Some

Identity and Location

The Jawa Mancanegari people live primarily in the province of East Java. “Mancanegari,” is a Jawa word meaning “outside the nation.” This name was given to them by the ancient Jawa Negarigung kingdoms of Surakarta and Yogyakarta and referred to the fact that they resided outside of those kingdoms.

The Jawa Mancanegari people have a rich history of which they are very proud. Two ancient Hindu kingdoms in particular – the Kediri kingdom (11th -12th c. AD) and the Majapahit kingdom (14th-15th c. AD) – illustrate this heritage. The combined influence of these kingdoms extended from Vietnam to New Guinea, and relics from these eras are found throughout Southeast Asia, particularly in East Java. Even today, Kediri and Mojokerto are the centers of Jawa Mancanegari culture.

Society and Culture

Jawa Mancanegari are primarily farmers. They have been blessed with extremely fertile land, much of which can support up to four crops per year. This is true both to the rich volcanic soil and to the many rivers and tributaries which crisscross their homeland. Rice is the predominant crop; however tobacco, soybeans, and corn are also grown.

A growing industrial sector is developing, primarily in major urban areas where those who feel they don’t have a future in the villages, particularly young people, seek employment. Some of the primary industries produce textiles, cigarettes, steel, and furniture.

The Jawa Mancanegari people are considered less refined than the other Jawa subgroups. They are known, however, for their openness, straightforwardness, “can

do” attitude, and their indomitable spirit. Many of Indonesia’s independence leaders, including the first president, were Jawa Mancanegari.

Important cultural events and ceremonies include the Reog and Kuda Lumping dances. During these dances, the dancer will go into a trance by inviting spirits to enter into his body in order to perform extraordinary acts. In the Kuda Lumping dance, the dancer dances around on a woven bamboo horse while eating glass, flowers, and grass. In the Reog Dance, the dancer wears a giant tiger-head mask decorated with peacock feathers that is 2 m. (6 ft.) tall and weighs about 45 kg. (100 lbs.)

Beliefs

The majority of Jawa Mancanegari people consider themselves Muslim although many of them mix their Islamic beliefs with Hindu and Pre-Hindu beliefs. This mixture of beliefs is called Kejawen (Jawa religion). Many Jawa Mancanegari people learn to read the Qur’an (Islamic Holy Book) and vocalize prayers and qur’anic recitations in Arabic but seldom understand the meaning of what they are reading or vocalizing. They often use Islamic prayers as mantras and written verses from the Qur’an as good luck charms or to ward off evil spirits. Most Jawa Mancanegari people give sesajen (offerings) to the danyan (guardian spirit), to guard and protect their village, house, and health.

Needs

The Jawa Mancanegari need more employment opportunities due to the high unemployment rate and economic crisis in Indonesia. Also, outside of the major cities, medical care is basically nonexistent and educational opportunities are very limited.