A NEW HOPE

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT
JOKO WIDODO IS A FORCE FOR DEMOCRACY

BY HANNAH BEECH

Photograph by Adam Ferguson for TIME
The New Face of Indonesian Democracy

Indonesia is the world’s fourth most populous nation, a democracy with rich natural resources and more Muslims than any other country on the planet. And it just elected a new President. Meet Joko Widodo

The passenger sitting in 42K, deep in economy class, orders a cup of milk from the flight attendant, then leans against the window for a nap. Far below, as Garuda Indonesia Flight GA 226 heads east toward the Indonesian heartland city of Solo, an angry mountain sends a vermilion blaze into the night sky, just another eruption in a country with the most active volcanoes on earth. A little girl named Shakira slowly makes her way to the bathrooms at the back of the plane, checking out each traveler with the forthright stare of a 5-year-old. She glances at the sleeping figure, then points, like an overexcited tourist on safari. “It’s Mr. Jokowi,” she says, delighted at her discovery. “He’s on the plane with me.”

On Oct. 20, Joko Widodo, universally known by the nickname Jokowi, will be sworn in as the seventh...

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