Adil, Sutan Kali Malikul. *Pembaharuan Hukum Perdata Kita*. Jakarta: Pembangunan, 1955, 183pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**Renewing Our Civil Law**

*Pembaharuan Hukum Perdata Kita*

This work considers the system of civil law operating in Indonesia in the 1950s and demonstrates how that system drew on both European civil law and Indonesian customary law (*adat*).

The book is divided into two parts: the first provides a contextual survey of topics relevant to the discussion. The author, who was a Judge of the Indonesian Supreme Court, draws on case studies from both European civil law and Indonesian customary law. Throughout the work he considers the similarities and differences between the two systems, and also takes account of both nineteenth- and twentieth-century historical contexts of Indonesian civil law.

The work was written during the first decade of Indonesia’s existence as an independent nation. As such, Dutch colonial influence still looms large over the discussion. Adil uses Dutch words and phrases at different points of the work, thereby assuming that his readership understood Dutch. This provides an insight to the kinds of readers he intended for his work: an educated though non-specialist readership.

The work has a number of strengths. The writing style is accessible, thereby attracting readers beyond the legal field. The work provides a clear window into Indonesian legal history, although the scene today is considerably different, especially with the power of Islamic law courts having risen since the 1980s. Nevertheless, the work still has value, especially its running comparison between European civil law and Indonesian customary law.

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