Baringbing, R. E*. Catur Wangsa Yang Bebas Kolusi Simpul Mewujudkan Supremasi Hukum*. John Handol (ed.). Jakarta: Pusat Kajian Reformasi, 2001, 236pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**Four Principles for Relationship Building without Collusion in order to Ensure the Supremacy of the Law**

*Catur Wangsa Yang Bebas Kolusi Simpul Mewujudkan Supremasi Hukum*

This work identifies and addresses collusion as one of most damaging aspects of corruption that has undermined Indonesia’s legal system.

The volume is arranged according to nine main chapters. The first three provide key background information, considering prevailing conditions in the Indonesian legal sector, political influences during the New Order regime (1966–98) and the issue of legal reform. Chapters four to eight provide the core of the study, considering how collusion can corrupt power relationships in the legal sector. Chapter nine presents a set of conclusions.

This work is designed as not only a scholarly study, but also a call to action. The foreword by Muladi signals this: “It is no secret that the institutions of law in Indonesia do not function as they should”. The author is well-equipped for this task of advocacy, having extensive experience as a legal professional engaged in cases of collusion and institutional corruption.

The timing of this work is key. It appeared in print three years after the fall of Suharto, the architect of the New Order regime and Indonesian president for thirty-two years. The New Order regime was characterised by widespread manipulation of the legal system to entrench the regime in power. This book gives voice to the call by many legal experts and policymakers in Indonesia, since 1998, for effective reform that would produce a truly democratic, lawful state.

Indonesia still faces great challenges in overcoming institutionalised corruption. Consequently, this work has continuing currency and relevance.

Peter G. Riddell