Djokosutono, R. and Supomo, R. *Sejarah Politik Hukum Adat, vol. I (1609-1848*), *vol. II* (*1848-1928*). Jakarta: Djambatan, 1950, vol. I. 118pp. and vol. II. 167pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**The Political History of Customary Law,**

 **vol. I (1609*–*1848), vol. II (1848*–*1928)**

*Sejarah Politik Hukum Adat, vol. I (1609–1848*), *vol. II* (*1848–1928*)

This work represents a compilation and study of various written records of the Dutch colonial authorities in Indonesia, with particular reference to the impact of Dutch policy on Indonesian customary law in both civil and criminal domains.

The first volume covers the period from the arrival and establishment of the Dutch East India Company in Indonesia in the early seventeenth century to 1848. Volume one has four chapters divided according to period: the period of the Dutch East India Company, the rule of G. G. Daendels (1808*–*1811), the British interregnum under Raffles (1811*–*1816), and the period 1816*–*1848.

The second volume begins in 1848, the year of the enactment of a comprehensive new system of laws for Indonesia by the Dutch government, and ends in 1928, when the Dutch authorities undertook further reforms of the legal system. Volume two does not have chapters, as the authors consider the period 1848*–*1928 a unit in terms of Indonesian legal history during the colonial period.

In volume one the chapters have numbered, titled sections. Volume two does not use this format, rather presenting discussion in continuous prose. The authors tell the story of relevant events by frequently quoting original sources and interspersing these quotations with scholarly analysis.

A subtitle indicating the prominent role of original colonial records in the work would have provided readers with a clearer insight into the work’s content and significance.

This work remains a valuable resource for students of Indonesian legal history and historians of the colonial period in Indonesia. An updated edition would be appropriate. Any new edition should include an index, which would greatly assist readers to negotiate their way around the large quantity of important information presented here.

Peter G. Riddell