Hartog*,* V. F. M. den and Kal, H. Th. Ch. *Pemandangan Ringkas Tentang Hukum di Indonesia*. Jakarta: Noordhoff-Kolff, 1955, 293pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**A Concise Survey of Law in Indonesia**

***Pemandangan Ringkas Tentang Hukum di Indonesia***

This work is based on a survey of the principles and practices of law in Indonesia during the first decade of the state’s existence. The volume is organised into twelve main chapters. The first chapter is introductory. It includes definitions of basic terms, addresses foundational legal principles, and discusses customary law, western law, and various fields of law. Subsequent chapters give closer consideration to fields of law such as administrative, civil, labour, company, commercial, industrial, criminal, and international law.

The work includes an appendix describing certain structures of the Indonesian state that relate to the various dimensions of the law; for example, the Board of Financial Control, the Office of Notary, the Civil Registrar, and the Stock Exchange.

The author’s writing style is highly structured, with frequent lists and categories, suggesting an intended readership of non-specialists or entry-level law students. Despite the highly technical writing style, the work includes many examples that address real questions posed by Indonesians: the rights of married women, the authority of parents, and proof of descent, among other topics. This selection of relevant examples is a strength of the work.

This volume was written during the first decade of Indonesia’s independence, at a time when the new nation was establishing all the structures of state. As such, the volume was intended to be both descriptive and prescriptive. However, the discussion is now outdated. Early twenty-first-century Indonesia is witnessing an increasing role of Islamic courts, bringing a new dimension to the interpretation and application of laws in Indonesia that was not as pronounced at the time of this book’s publication.

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