INDONESIAN LAW


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The authors have presented a snapshot of Indonesia’s legal system in a manner that breaks down the justification, significance and definitions of the country’s past and existing laws. Delivered in the format of a monograph, Lindsey and Butt were able to masterfully deduce as well as extract key points relating to the basic foundation of the country’s laws. The book underlines the importance of understanding history before delving into the law, such is the case in the book’s writing on the Constitution, in which the country’s state ideology was first explained and its developments detailed through the account of Indonesia’s formative years.

What strikes this book as an important source of information for its international and national audience is based on the way it disseminates views of regulations, laws and principles in a way that is rooted and acknowledged in the Indonesian ecosystem. As a result, this book dispels the wording and interpretations of various terms that is often misconstrued or even not comprehended when translated into the english language. Following this, the book puts forward information in a manner that is straightforward and is packed as well as summarized into essential information—to the extend that tables corresponds between the current laws in place, its status within the hierarchy of laws, its english translation and even the abbreviation utilized within the Indonesian public. This is a testament to the book’s foundation of not only being capable in communicating the theories embedded within the country but in also being in tune with the conditions and wordings used.

In addition, the book has also instilled the historical depths of Indonesia, bringing forward the economic, political and social considerations within the nation. Furthermore, the book has also echoed several presidencies such as that of Soekarno as well as Suharto and how each turmoil influences the decision and reflection of the country’s laws as well as journey towards decentralization and accountability.

The book has also underlined the rights of the legal profession, which comes in the scope of legal aid lawyers, advocates, bar admissions and the rights vested upon important stakeholders. Furthermore, the book also takes the opportunity to bring into light significant pieces of laws and regulations in the country. One such instance is Indonesia’s human rights law, which the authors take the time to explain by first establishing its history in brief and explaining the sources of international law that the country is party to and corresponding it to the relevant domestic laws in place.
In terms of Indonesia’s corruption law, the book has also described the transition of a Post-Suharto Indonesia, and brings into the realization of the anti-corruption laws after a period of economic stress especially during the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997. Furthermore, the book also brings into light the scope and jurisdiction of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and the powers that it has. More than that, the book also explains the contentious clash the the Corruption Eradication has with state institutions such as that of the police and the controversy surrounding the leaders of the KPK.

Hence, the context of the book describes a specific amount of aspects. First, the book serves as a way in which its audience might be able to deduce the principles, values and views of Indonesia’s legal system. Second, the book serves as a way to break down Indonesia’s vast legal system by defining the common associations of the present regulations, and hierarchy of laws seen. Third, the book gives a sense of the judicial and other relevant institutions that seek to interpret, legislate or otherwise adjudicate such laws.

One other key component that can be seen within this book is their tenacity to discuss laws not only in a theoretical sense but also in line with the procedures and important articles that are in place. For example, the book also explains criminal procedural law, starting from the process of investigation until that of prosecution.

This book serves as an appropriate medium for foreign readers who want to to understand Indonesian law in general and for national readers, it serves as a useful tool to look at the accuracy of terminology in regards to legal translations. However, one should heed that this is not a piece of literature for those who wish to gain the knowledge the brings them forward to specialize to a particular field of Indonesian law. Rather, this book serves a worthy introduction that provides background, context and definition in order to understand Indonesia’s legal system at the surface level.