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Nota di contenuto	One: Basic Assumptions and Hypotheses -- Two: Socio-Political Organization in Minangkabau -- Three: The Pluralistic Situation -- Four: The Level of Meaning: Systems of Property Relationships in Minangkabau -- Five: The Level of Performance I: The Fulfilment of the Function -- Six: The Level of Performance II: The Production of Legal Conceptions in Historical Perspective -- Seven: Conclusions -- Notes.
Sommario/riassunto	Learn the laws of inheritance and teach them to the people; for they are one half of useful knowledge. t-1ohanned (Fyzee 1955: 329) When the prophet created this aphorism he had in mind the rules of inheritance law revealed to him by Allah. We could apply it to social anthropology as well sincethe inheritance of property and the succession to positions of socio-political authority are among the most important elements of social organization. They are the vehicles of continuity which maintain property and authority through time. In many societies, and particularly in those generally studied by anthropologists, inheritance and succession are closely interconnected with kinship and descent and provide the economic and political substance for the existence and continuity of kinship- or descent-based social groups. They are, as it were, the flesh on the bare bones of kinship relations. The importance of inheritance has, of course, not escaped the notice of social and legal anthropologists, and in recent years several studies have ably

demonstrated the point (Radcliffe-Brown 1952, Goodenough 1951, Leach 1961 b, Goody 1962, Lloyd 1962, Gray and Gulliver (eds.) 1964, Derrett (ed.) 1965, Gluckman 1972, Moore 1969, Burling 1974). Yet in general, property and inheritance have rather been treated as an appendix to economic and kinship studies.
