

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790401903321
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Titolo	Political and legal transformations of an Indonesian polity : the Nagari from colonisation to decentralisation // Franz von Benda-Beckmann, Keebet von Benda-Beckmann [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-139-89186-3 1-107-42466-6 1-107-42266-3 1-316-61853-6 1-107-41956-5 1-139-83908-X 1-107-41692-2 1-107-42071-7 1-107-41823-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxiii, 499 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in law and society
Disciplina	323.1199/2244
Soggetti	Minangkabau (Indonesian people) - Politics and government Minangkabau (Indonesian people) - Legal status, laws, etc Minangkabau (Indonesian people) - History Indonesia Politics and government 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Towards an anthropological understanding of political and legal change -- The pre-colonial nagari -- Minangkabau under colonial government -- Japanese occupation, independence and post-colonial transformation until 1983 -- Centralised government at its zenith -- Reformasi: constitutional reforms and regional autonomy -- Creating new nagari structures -- The return to the nagari: smooth transitions -- Uneasy transformations -- Governing the village -- New dynamics in property rights -- Never ending disputes -- Property law reconstituted, uncertainty perpetuated -- Old issues revisited: Adat, Islam and Minangkabau identity politics -- Decentralisation, the

transformation of the nagari and the dynamics of legal pluralism: some conclusions.

Sommario/riassunto

Political and Legal Transformations of an Indonesian Polity is a long-term study of the historical transformations of the Minangkabau polity of nagari, property relations and the ever-changing dynamic relationships between Minangkabau matrilineal adat law, Islamic law and state law. While the focus is on the period since the fall of President Suharto in 1998, the book charts a long history of political and legal transformations before and after Indonesia's independence, in which the continuities are as notable as the changes. It also throws light on the transnational processes through which legal and political ideas spread and acquire new meanings. The multi-temporal historical approach adopted is also relevant to the more general discussions of the relationship between anthropology and history, the creation of customary law, identity construction, and the anthropology of colonialism.
