



Indigenous Political Systems of Western Malaya

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MONOGRAPHS ON SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Paperback Edition 12 96





This book offers an account of the way in which the traditional government of the Malay Sultans worked before the introduction of British rule in 1874, covering the whole political organisation, from village to state, of Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan, with some reference also to Pakang and Kedah. The study has no parallel in the Malayan field and contributes at the same time to the general understanding of political institutions outside modern Western society.

'The interest of the book goes beyond that of specialist Malay studies. To the best of my knowledge this is the first occasion on which the technique and concepts of the social anthropologist have been applied to historical source materials of this type.' E. R. Leach in the *British Journal of Sociology*

'Using documentary sources, the author manages to give a clear and excellently composed picture, not only of the political systems as such, but also of the interdependence of the political and the economic situation and the way in which kinship ties were utilised for political purposes.' P. E. Josselin de Jong in *Bijdragen*