understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle

Understanding Islam in Indonesia Robert Pringle: Exploring Faith, Culture, and Society

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle opens a fascinating window into one of the most complex and vibrant expressions of Islam in the world. Indonesia, home to the largest Muslim population globally, presents a unique tapestry where faith intertwines deeply with local cultures, histories, and social dynamics. Robert Pringle's work offers valuable insights into how Islam in Indonesia is not just a religion but a lived experience shaped by centuries of interaction between indigenous traditions and Islamic teachings.

The Unique Landscape of Islam in Indonesia

Indonesia's version of Islam is often described as "moderate" or "pluralistic," distinguished by its blending with local customs and traditions. Unlike some Muslim-majority countries where Islamic law dominates the legal and social framework, Indonesia's Islam reflects a more accommodating and syncretic approach. Understanding Islam in Indonesia Robert Pringle highlights the importance of recognizing this distinctive character to avoid oversimplifications.

Historical Roots and Spread of Islam

Islam arrived in Indonesia through trade routes rather than military conquest, primarily via Muslim merchants from Gujarat, Arabia, and Persia between the 13th and 16th centuries. This peaceful spread allowed Islam to integrate smoothly with pre-existing Hindu-Buddhist and animist cultures. Pringle underscores that the process was gradual, marked by local rulers adopting Islam alongside their traditional beliefs, which led to a localized and flexible practice of the faith.

Local Traditions and Islamic Practices

One of the key aspects Robert Pringle emphasizes is how Indonesian Islam incorporates traditional rituals and ceremonies. For example, the celebration of Islamic holidays often includes elements from earlier indigenous customs, making festivals rich and diverse in meaning. This cultural blending is evident in practices like the Javanese slametan, a communal feast that combines Islamic prayers with local spiritual rituals.

Robert Pringle's Perspective on Religious Pluralism and Tolerance

Indonesia's religious landscape is famously diverse, with significant populations of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and animists living alongside Muslims. Pringle's analysis sheds light on how religious pluralism has been embedded into Indonesian society, fostering a culture of tolerance and coexistence.

The Role of Pancasila

Central to Indonesian national identity is Pancasila, the state philosophy that promotes belief in one God while respecting religious diversity. Pringle points out that Pancasila has been instrumental in shaping state policies that encourage harmony among different faith groups. This ideology supports the idea that Islam in Indonesia is not about exclusivity but about inclusiveness and social unity.

Challenges to Tolerance

Despite its reputation for tolerance, Indonesia faces challenges from rising religious conservatism and occasional sectarian tensions. Robert Pringle discusses how these trends are influenced by global Islamic movements and local political dynamics. However, he also notes that many Indonesian Muslims actively resist these pressures, advocating for a more moderate and culturally rooted Islam.

Understanding Islam in Indonesia Robert Pringle: Social and Political Dimensions

Islam in Indonesia is not only a personal faith but also a powerful social and political force. Pringle's work explores how Islamic organizations, parties, and movements interact with the country's democratic framework and evolving society.

The Role of Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah

Two of the largest Islamic organizations in Indonesia, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah, play crucial roles in shaping the religious landscape. NU, known for its traditionalist stance, promotes the integration of Islam with local culture, while Muhammadiyah advocates for Islamic reform and modernization. Robert Pringle explains how these organizations contribute to education, social welfare, and

interfaith dialogue, balancing religious devotion with civic engagement.

Islam and Indonesian Politics

Islamic parties have historically influenced Indonesian politics but have rarely achieved dominance. Pringle highlights how Indonesia's secular constitution and political pluralism have allowed for diverse expressions of Islam within the democratic process. The interplay between religion and politics remains dynamic, with ongoing debates about the role of Sharia law and the rights of religious minorities.

Insights into Contemporary Issues and Future Trends

Robert Pringle's analysis also touches on contemporary challenges and opportunities facing Islam in Indonesia today. Globalization, digital communication, and youth culture are reshaping how Islam is understood and practiced.

The Impact of Social Media

Social media platforms have become arenas for religious discourse, spreading both moderate and conservative interpretations of Islam. Pringle notes that while this can empower young Muslims to engage with their faith creatively, it also presents risks of misinformation and radicalization. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for anyone studying Islam in Indonesia in the 21st century.

Youth and Religious Identity

The younger generation in Indonesia navigates a complex landscape where tradition meets modernity. Robert Pringle points out that many young Indonesians seek to reconcile their Islamic faith with global trends, education, and career aspirations. This negotiation often leads to diverse expressions of spirituality that challenge simplistic notions of Islamic practice.

Why Robert Pringle's Work Matters

For scholars, students, and anyone interested in Indonesian society, Robert Pringle's contributions provide a nuanced and empathetic understanding of Islam's role in the archipelago. His work moves beyond stereotypes, emphasizing the lived realities of Indonesian Muslims and the socio-cultural contexts that shape

their faith.

By focusing on local histories, cultural integration, political life, and contemporary challenges, Pringle encourages a holistic view that respects Indonesia's complexity. This approach is invaluable for policymakers, religious leaders, and global audiences seeking to engage with Indonesia thoughtfully and respectfully.

Exploring understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle reveals a faith that is as diverse as the islands themselves — deeply rooted yet constantly evolving. It invites us to appreciate how religion, culture, and identity intersect in one of the world's most fascinating Muslim-majority nations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Robert Pringle in the context of understanding Islam in Indonesia?

Robert Pringle is a scholar and author known for his research and writings on Islam in Indonesia, focusing on its social, cultural, and political dynamics.

What is the main focus of Robert Pringle's work on Islam in Indonesia?

Pringle's work primarily explores the historical development, cultural expressions, and contemporary issues of Islam in Indonesian society.

How does Robert Pringle approach the study of Islam in Indonesia?

He employs an interdisciplinary approach combining history, anthropology, and religious studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of Islam in Indonesia.

What insights does Robert Pringle offer about Islamic practices in Indonesia?

Pringle highlights the diversity of Islamic practices in Indonesia, emphasizing syncretism and local traditions that shape Indonesian Islam distinctively.

Why is understanding Islam in Indonesia important according to Robert Pringle?

Understanding Islam in Indonesia is crucial for grasping the nation's social cohesion, political developments, and cultural identity, as Islam is the dominant religion in the country.

Does Robert Pringle discuss the political role of Islam in Indonesia?

Yes, Pringle examines how Islam influences political movements, governance, and societal change within Indonesia.

How does Robert Pringle address the diversity within Indonesian Islam?

He acknowledges the pluralism within Indonesian Islam, including variations in theology, practice, and the interaction between Islam and local customs.

What contributions has Robert Pringle made to the academic study of Islam in Indonesia?

Robert Pringle has contributed through detailed ethnographic studies, historical analysis, and publication of works that deepen the understanding of Indonesia's unique Islamic landscape.

Additional Resources

Understanding Islam in Indonesia Robert Pringle: A Scholarly Perspective

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle offers a nuanced lens through which to explore the rich tapestry of Islamic faith as it has evolved and manifested in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. Robert Pringle, a noted scholar in Southeast Asian studies, provides insightful analysis into the complexities of Islam's practice and its socio-political influence across Indonesia's archipelago. His work stands as a critical resource for academics, policymakers, and anyone seeking to grasp the multifaceted nature of Islam in this diverse cultural landscape.

The Context of Islam in Indonesia

Indonesia is home to approximately 230 million Muslims, making it the country with the largest Muslim population globally. However, the practice of Islam in Indonesia is far from monolithic. It is deeply interwoven with local customs, indigenous beliefs, and a history of trade and colonialism that has shaped its unique expression. Robert Pringle's approach to understanding Islam in Indonesia emphasizes this hybridity, challenging simplified narratives that often dominate Western discourse.

Pringle's research highlights that Indonesian Islam is characterized by a balance between orthodox practices and syncretic traditions. This duality is evident in the persistence of local rituals and the widespread acceptance of Islamic pluralism. His analysis cautions against viewing Indonesian Islam solely through the lens of Middle Eastern models, advocating instead for an appreciation of the region's historical and cultural specificities.

Robert Pringle's Analytical Framework on Indonesian Islam

Pringle's scholarship delves into several key areas to unpack the dynamics of Islam in Indonesia:

Historical Development

Understanding Islam's arrival and spread is crucial. Pringle traces the religion's introduction through trade routes connecting the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. He notes that Islam did not arrive as a conquest but through gradual conversion, often blending with Hindu-Buddhist and animist traditions already present. This historical context sets the stage for the syncretic practices that remain prevalent.

Religious Diversity within Islam

Pringle's work pays close attention to the diversity within Indonesian Islam, including the differences between major Islamic organizations such as Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah. NU is known for its traditionalist approach, often incorporating local customs, while Muhammadiyah promotes a more reformist, puritanical Islam. These distinctions are vital for understanding the internal debates and tensions within Indonesian Muslim communities.

Political and Social Dimensions

Pringle also explores how Islam intersects with politics and society in Indonesia. He underscores the religion's role in shaping national identity, governance, and public policy. His analysis covers the rise of Islamic political parties, the influence of Islamic law (Sharia) in several provinces, and the challenges posed by religious pluralism in a democratic state.

Key Themes in Understanding Islam in Indonesia Robert Pringle Highlights

Syncretism and Local Traditions

One of the most compelling aspects of Pringle's work is his focus on syncretism. For example, the Javanese practice of Islam incorporates rituals from pre-Islamic animist beliefs, which coexist with Islamic prayers

and festivals. This blend challenges rigid interpretations of Islamic orthodoxy and showcases Indonesia's adaptive religious culture.

Islamic Education and Institutions

Pringle emphasizes the role of pesantren (Islamic boarding schools) as vital institutions that transmit Islamic knowledge and shape community values. These schools often serve as centers for both religious education and social activism, reflecting the diversity of Islamic thought in Indonesia.

Gender and Islam

Another important dimension in Pringle's framework is the role of gender within Indonesian Islam. He examines how Islamic teachings are interpreted differently across communities, affecting women's roles and rights in various ways. This analysis contributes to broader discussions on Islam and modernity in Southeast Asia.

Comparative Insights and Contemporary Relevance

When comparing Indonesia's Islamic practices with those in other Muslim-majority countries, Pringle's insights reveal significant contrasts. Unlike more conservative interpretations seen in the Middle East, Indonesian Islam tends to be more inclusive and flexible, allowing for coexistence with other religions such as Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. This pluralism is both a strength and a challenge, as it requires ongoing negotiation between tradition and reform.

Moreover, Pringle's work remains highly relevant in today's geopolitical climate. Indonesia faces rising Islamist movements alongside secular nationalist forces, making his balanced perspective crucial for understanding potential future trajectories. His research aids in unpacking how global Islamic discourses interact with local realities, influencing issues from counterterrorism policies to human rights debates.

Pros and Cons of Indonesia's Islamic Pluralism

- **Pros:** The syncretic nature fosters tolerance and social cohesion in a multi-ethnic society; it supports a moderate form of Islam that can coexist with democracy and pluralism.
- Cons: Syncretism sometimes invites criticism from more orthodox groups; tensions between

Robert Pringle's Contribution to Southeast Asian Islamic Studies

By focusing on the Indonesian context, Pringle enriches the broader field of Islamic studies with a regional perspective often overlooked. His interdisciplinary methodology, combining historical analysis, ethnography, and political science, provides a comprehensive understanding of how Islam functions as a living, evolving faith in Indonesia.

His scholarship encourages readers to move beyond stereotypes and simplistic binaries, advocating for an appreciation of the complex realities on the ground. For researchers, his work is a valuable blueprint for studying Islam in plural societies, offering both theoretical frameworks and empirical data.

In sum, exploring understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle leads to a deeper appreciation of the intricate ways Islam is practiced and perceived in Indonesia. His analysis underscores the importance of context, diversity, and historical continuity in shaping the Indonesian Islamic experience—a critical insight for anyone seeking to engage with this dynamic faith community.

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understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: <u>Understanding Islam in Indonesia</u> Robert Pringle, 2010 There are more Muslims in Indonesia than in any other country, but most people outside the region know little about the nation, much less about the practice of Islam among its diverse peoples or the religion's influence on the politics of the republic. In this illuminating publication, Robert Pringle explains the advent of Islam in Indonesia, its development, and especially its contemporary circumstances. The author's incisive writing provides the necessary background and demystifies the spectrum of politically active Muslim groups in Indonesia today.

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: Islam: Von Indien zum arabisch-israelischen Konflikt Stanford Mc Krause, Yuri Galbinst, Willem Brownstok, Der Islam ist die zweitgrößte Religion in Indien, mit 14,2% der Bevölkerung des Landes oder rd. 200 Millionen Menschen identifizieren sich als Anhänger des Islam (Schätzung 2018). Damit ist Indien das Land mit der größten muslimischen Bevölkerung außerhalb der mehrheitlich muslimischen Länder. Die Mehrheit der indischen Muslime gehört zur sunnitischen Sekte des Islam, während die Schiiten eine beträchtliche Minderheit bilden. Die Barwada-Moschee in Ghogha, Gujarat, die vor 623 n. Chr.

Erbaut wurde, und die Cheraman-Juma-Moschee in Methala, Kerala, sind zwei der ersten Moscheen in Indien, die von arabischen Seefahrern gebaut wurden. Nach einer Expedition des Gouverneurs von Bahrain nach Bharuch im 7. Jahrhundert n. Chr. Ließen sich arabische und persische Einwandererhandelsgemeinschaften aus Südarabien und dem Persischen Golf an der Küste von Gujarat nieder. Ismaili Shia Islam wurde in der zweiten Hälfte des 11. Jahrhunderts in Gujarat eingeführt, als Fatimid Imam Al-Mustansir Billah 467 n. Chr. / 1073 n. Chr. Missionare nach Gujarat sandte. Der sektiererische Konflikt zwischen palästinensischen Juden und Arabern kam in den 1920er Jahren auf und führte 1947 zu einem Bürgerkrieg in vollem Ausmaß. Nach der Unabhängigkeitserklärung Israels verwandelte er sich im Mai 1948 in den Ersten Arabisch-Israelischen Krieg. Große Feindseligkeiten endeten meist mit den Waffenstillstandsabkommen nach dem Jom-Kippur-Krieg von 1973. 1979 wurden Friedensabkommen zwischen Israel und Ägypten unterzeichnet, die zum Rückzug Israels von der Sinai-Halbinsel und zur Abschaffung des Militärgouvernementsystems im Westjordanland und im Gazastreifen zugunsten der israelischen Zivilverwaltung und der damit einhergehenden einseitigen Annexion der Golanhöhen und des Ostens führten Jerusalem.

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: Islam and Politics in Indonesia: Freedom of Religion or Belief and the influence of Islamic actors Tobias Hoheneder, 2018-08-15 In most Islamic societies, freedom of religion or belief is not a reality for religious minorities. Indonesia, home of the biggest Muslim population in the world, is a positive exception in this regard. The country was always a role model for the peaceful co-existence of diverse religious and cultural traditions, but in recent years, Islamic fundamentalist groups challenge the country's tolerant and pluralistic identity. This book inquires the development of freedom of religion or belief from a political, legal and religious perspective. It analyzes the laws and mechanisms that protect the rights of minorities and traces the role of the country's most important Islamic organizations and the influence they have on national policy-making. It finally points out possible future developments and how the government can counter the threat of militant Islamism and preserve Indonesia's tolerant traditions.

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understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: Trending Islam: Cases from Southeast Asia Norshahril Saat, A'an Suryana, Mohd Faizal Musa, 2023-09-22 What are trending Islamic ideas in Southeast Asia; how are they transmitted and who transmits them? These are questions that linger among the minds of policymakers, diplomats and scholars interested in Islam in Southeast Asia. Trending Islam maps and discusses key personalities, groups or institutions that influence Muslims in the region. This book dedicates more space to discuss the role of the Internet in disseminating religious discourses. Internet's role, in particular the use of social media either to advance interpretations of Islamic ideas or to gain influence in the public sphere, is becoming more significant as it allows information to spread faster and wider. While not discounting traditional issues such as extremism and terrorism, matters that continue to affect many people's lives in the region, the book delves into the interaction between violent and non-violent extremism and the liberal and progressive responses to them. Trending Islam covers the transmission of Islam in

several countries and some case studies. This timely and important volume brings together scholars providing nuanced analyses of the current dynamics of Islam in Southeast Asia. This volume guides readers through the complexities of Muslims' evolving engagement with global modernity by exploring different aspects of Islam in the region. In addition to chapters devoted to understanding major actors and institutions, this volume also examines the transmission of Islamic ideas; assesses how multiple actors from diverse backgrounds, competing for Islamic interpretation and expression, are impacted by the Internet and social media; and discusses the paradoxes of established Muslim organizations and state-sponsored da'wah groups. A must-read for whoever is interested in Southeast Asian Islam!--Noorhaidi Hasan, Professor in Islam and Politics at Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia of Jakarta and Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University of Yogyakarta

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: *Islamic Education and Indoctrination* Charlene Tan, 2012-01-26 This book critically examines the concept of indoctrination within the Western liberal traditions and analyses case studies of indoctrination in some Muslim societies. It offers suggestions to counter religious indoctrination and highlights the key tensions, challenges and prospects of Islamic education in a modern and multicultural world.

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understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: End of Innocence? Andree Feillard, 2013-08-01 Long cited as a model of harmonious cohabitation between different religions, the most populous Muslim country in the world until recently occupied a special place in the Western imagination. Indonesia, home to a peaceful version of Islam, offered a reassuring counter-model to a rowdy and accusatory Arab Islam. Since 1999, however, confrontations between Christians and Muslims in the Moluccas, excesses of vigilantism in Sulawesi, and especially the Bali and Jakarta bombings have shattered these simplistic stereotypes. For many terrorism experts - often self-proclaimed - Indonesia's mutation confirmed the hackneyed thesis that equated obscurantism with Islam, and saw violent outbreaks as an inevitable consequence.

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new opportunities for Islamist activists to influence politics. Buehler's analysis of changing state-religion relations in formerly authoritarian Islamic countries illuminates broader theoretical debates on Islamization in the context of democratization. This timely text is essential reading for students, scholars, and government analysts.

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: Proceedings of the Annual International Conference on Social Science and Humanities (AICOSH 2022) Rama Kertamukti, Yanti Dwi Astuti, Mohammad Johan Nasrul Huda, Tariq Yazid, Hwe Wai Weng, Nisrina Muthahari, 2023-02-10 This is an open access book. Understanding the problems of war and conflicts that occur both within and outside the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia, several discussions on the human side seem essential to do. Several interesting topics can be raised, namely how media coverage is inseparable from human life in the 5.0 era. Furthermore, about the social changes that occurred as a result of the conflict and war. Moreover, the discourse on how the psychological impact experienced by humans due to conflict and war. Departing from this, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities UIN Sunan Kalijaga will hold the Annual International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities 2022.

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: Ислам: от Индонезии до династии Сефевидов Yuri Galbinst, Историяпоявления и распространения ислама в Индонезии неясна. Одна теория утверждает, что она прибыла непосредственно из Аравии до 9-го века, в товремя как другая приписывает суфийским купцам и проповедникам то, что они принесли ислам на индонезийские острова в 12-м или 13-м веке из Гуджарата в Индии или непосредственно с Ближнего Востока. До прихода ислама преобладающими религиями в Индонезии были буддизм и индуизм (в частности, его традиция шиваизма). Династия Сефевидов была одной из самых значительных правящих династий Ирана, которую часто считали началом современной иранской истории. Шахи Сефевидов правили одной из империй пороха и одной из величайших иранских империй после мусульманского завоевания 7-го века Ирана. Они установили школу шиитского ислама Twelver в качестве официальной религии империи,отмечая один из самых важных поворотных моментов в мусульманской истории.

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understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: Islam: A Brief Look at Faith and History (Revised Edition) Hafiz Ikhlas Ansari, 2017-02-26 Paperback. Islam has influenced and continues to influence many cultures around the globe. It is shaping history, cultures and civilizations. Sadly, most of us only receive a two-dimensional look at Islam-a view that is often distorted by the brevity of the media sound-bites or by opinionated agendas. Our intention with this book is to present Islam, its teachings and the history of those who follow it. It is not a comprehensive study-nor should it be seen as definitive. Rather, it should be used as a stimulus for further detailed study. We hope and pray that this effort becomes a source of promoting (much needed) harmony, peace, tolerance, and coexistence in the human family. This can be done through school education systems, interfaith sessions, mosque open houses, educational seminars and individual readership. This new Revised Edition has larger text, clearer graphics and many new additions to the previous text.

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historical seeds of Mennonite peacebuilding approaches and their application in violent conflicts around the world. The authors in this book first draw out the experiences of Anabaptists and Mennonites from the sixteenth-century originsthrough to the present that have shaped their approaches to conflict transformation and inspired new generations of Mennonites to engage in relief, development, and peacebuilding to alleviate the suffering of others whose experiences today reflect those of their ancestors. Authors then explore the various peacebuilding approaches, methods, and initiatives that have emerged from this Mennonite narrative and its preservation and dissemination in subsequent generations. Finally, the book examines how this combined historical sensitivity and resulting peacebuilding theory and practice have been applied in violent conflicts around the world, noting both successes and challenges. Ultimately, From Suffering to Solidarity attempts to answer a question: How can arobust historical infrastructure be used to inspire empathetic solidarity with the Other and shape nonviolent ways of transforming conflict to thrust a stick in the spokes of the cycle of violence?

understanding islam in indonesia robert pringle: Ислам: от Индии до арабо-израильского конфликта Willem Brownstok, Stanford Mc Krause, Yuri Galbinst, Ислам является второй по величине религией в Индии, с 14,2% населения страны или ок. 200 миллионов человек считаются приверженцами ислама (оценка 2018 года). Это делает Индию страной с наибольшим мусульманским населением за пределами стран с мусульманским большинством. Большинство индийских мусульман принадлежат к суннитской секте ислама, вто время как шииты составляют значительное меньшинство. Мечеть Барвада в Гога, штат Гуджарат, построенная до 623 года н.э., и мечеть Шераман Джума в Метала, штат Керала, являются двумя из первых мечетей в Индии, которые были построены морскими арабскими купцами. После экспедиции губернатора Бахрейна в Бхарух в 7 веке н.э. иммигрантские арабские и персидские торговые общины из Южной Аравии и Персидского залива начали оседать в прибрежном Гуджарате. Исламский шиитский ислам был введен в Гуджарат во второй половине 11-говека, когда Фатимид Имам Аль-Мустансир Биллах послал миссионеров в Гуджарат в 467 г.х. / 1073 г. н.э. Сектантский конфликт между палестинскими евреями и арабами возник в 1920-х годах, достигнув пика в полномасштабной гражданской войне в 1947 году и перерос в Первую арабо-израильскую войну в мае 1948 года после принятия Декларации независимости Израиля. Крупномасштабные военные действия в основном закончились соглашениями о прекращении огня после войны в Йом Кипур в 1973 году. Мирные соглашения были подписаны между Израилем и Египтом в 1979 году, что привело к уходу Израиля с Синайского полуострова и отмене системы военного управления на Западном берегу и в секторе Газа в пользу гражданской администрации Израиля и последующей односторонней аннексии Голанских высот и Востока. Иерусалим.

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behaviour in West Sumatra, and in Indonesia more generally, within an historical context in which rulers have in some way engaged with aspects of Islamic practice since the Islamic kingdom era. The book shows that while formal local Islamic regulations of this kind constitute a new development, their introduction has been a product of the same kinds of interactions between international, national and local elements that have characterised the relationship between Islam and politics through the course of Indonesian history. The book challenges the scholarly tendency to over-emphasise local political concerns when explaining this phenomenon, arguing that it is necessary to forefront the complex relationship between local politics and developments in the wider Islamic world. To illustrate the relationship between transnational and local Islam, the book uses detailed case studies of four domains of regulation: Islamic finance, zakat, education and behaviour and dress, in a number of local government areas within the province.

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