

A Preliminary Study of Class Structure Among the Sundanese in the Priangan

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Abstrak

This thesis is an attempt to describe the class structure in the Priangan-regencies in West Java, at approximately the turn of the century. Lack of available material has limited this thesis in many respects. It is also realized that a study of class structure pursued on the spot, where more reliable measurements and greater detail can be used, would be more satisfactory and render greater validity. It is the writer's intention to make a study of the class structure of a Sundanese community when she returns to Indonesia.' To be able to do this, she is convinced that certain knowledge of what it was before is indispensable; it is the intention that this thesis should provide such a background. Studies of class structure in Indonesia have been attempted by very few Dutch scholars. While Javanese art, language and literature have been studied intensively, class structure has been dealt with only superficially. It is a well-known fact that in Java among the Javanese and the Sundanese a distinction existed between the people. H. J. Friedericy, *De Standen bij de Boelnezen en Nakassaren, Bijdragen tot de Taal, Land en Volkenkunde*, vol. 90 (1933), pp. 448-602. In this book he discussed at length the origin, the symbols of the aristocracy and the common people among the Buginese and Makassarese in Celebes. Dr. H. Th. Chabot, *Vertrantschep Stangen aexe in Zuid Celebes*, (Groningen/Djakarta.: J. B. Wolters) 5'50