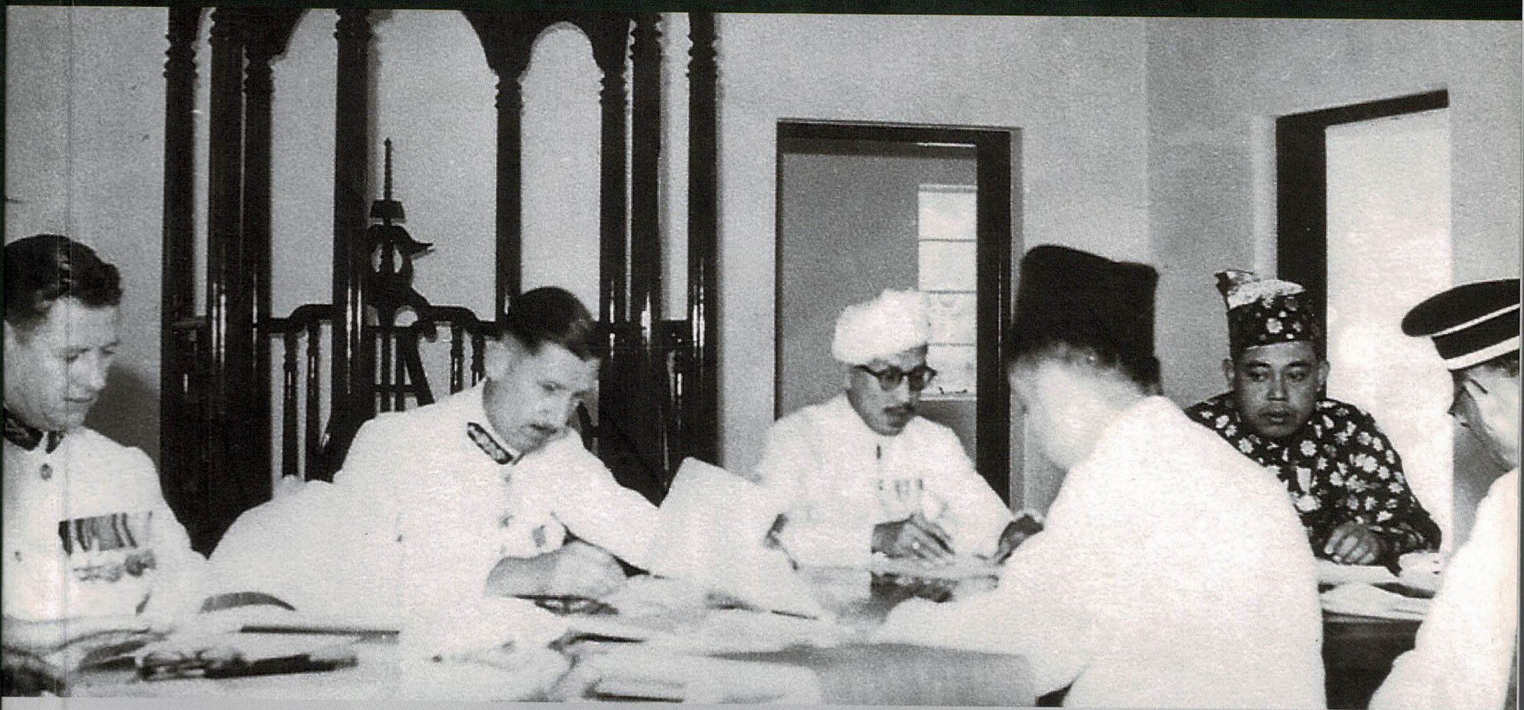


Brunei: Traditions of Monarchic Culture and History

R. H. Hickling's
Memorandum upon the Brunei Constitutional History and Practice



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Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

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"[Brunei is] a Malay State with a living constitution bound upon a strong sense of history..." R.H. Hickling



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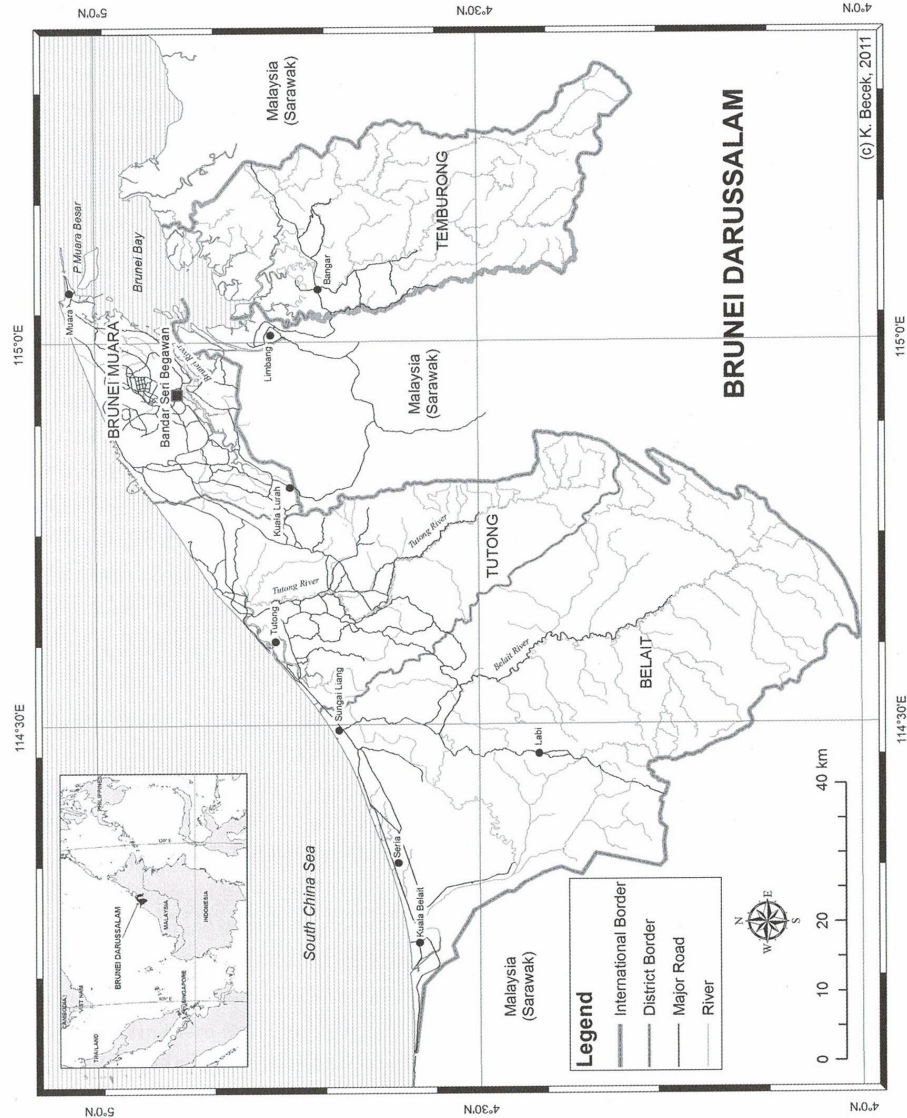
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Map of Brunei



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Introduced and Annotated

by

B. A. Hussainmiya & Nicholas Tarling



Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Bandar Seri Begawan

2011



"A Malay State with a living constitution bound upon a strong sense of history" – this is how the constitutional expert, R. H. Hickling, described Brunei's pre-colonial political legacy when he was asked to report on Brunei's traditional constitutional practices in 1954. The Hickling Memorandum, which is published here for the first time in an annotated edition, is a compendium of political culture, institutions of governance, monarchic power and a brief history of Brunei Darussalam. Following his warning about using imperial power to impose a Constitution á la British, the Memorandum provides clues about how the modern Brunei government evolved towards a neo-traditional polity based on the principles of Malay, Islam, Monarchy (MIB). The introductory essay sets out the historical context, offers a brief biographical sketch of Hickling, his mindset and analyses the political significance of the Memorandum. This book is a welcome addition to the literature on comparative political systems in general and Brunei's constitutional history in particular.

The Editors



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