

THE DINAMICS OF CHINESE MOSLEMS IN INDONESIA:

A Study of Politics of Nation and Identity

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The modern state concept that based on the nation-state system sounds accomplishing to the statecraft studies, but it is really not a simple thought to apply. So is the one of Indonesia, a country with multi-ethnics, races, religions, beliefs and classes. As the most Moslem populated country on the world, Indonesia has been facing a complex problem of Islamic communities, including the Indonesian Chinese Moslems. Islam becomes an integrating factor in one side, but the Chinese ethnicity seems very often to be reckoned as rival or threat to the Moslem middle class society. Many of the direct attacks on ethnic Chinese, from the 1950s to the present, have been carried out by Moslem organizations or in the name of Islam. The antipathy of some, by no means at all, Moslem toward the Chinese is at once economic, political, and cultural. So far, the Indonesian Chinese Moslems community have been favored and well developed through out the archipelago. This paper is, by the way, set to dig up more understandings about what supporting factors back up the development of the Chinese Moslems in Indonesia? And as a complementary discussion it is also worthy to realize what kinds of the constraining factors that limit their efforts?