

CULTURE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE BALIM VALLEY,

IRIAN JAYA, INDONESIA

by

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"PREFACE"

Culture Change and Development in the Balim Valley, Irian Jaya, Indonesia, is a study of induced culture change, specifically, the programs aimed at inducing culture change among the Grand Valley Dani found in the Central Highlands of Irian Jaya. The study is based on research undertaken from 1971 to 1973, as part of a joint program by Southern Illinois University and the United Nations Fund for the Development of West Irian (Irian Jaya). Under this program, research in the central highlands was to be carried out bearing on the issues and aspects of change and development. Because of this responsibility, the writer has chosen a broadly descriptive format rather than one dealing with only a few specific problems from the standpoint of some particular theory. In this sense, the study diverges slightly from the traditional anthropological study which is more narrowly defined.

The major concern of this study is with the programs undertaken by various agencies aimed at change and development (Chapter 5). Both the traditional Dani culture (Chapter 4) and the resultant culture of today (Chapter 6) are presented in a framework that makes possible a study of the extent of the changes that have taken place in Dani society. The effects of the programs introduced by outside agencies are evaluated (Chapter 6) in order to assess the various factors and influences of

such programs on the Dani (Chapter 6).

A second concern of this study is with presentation.

Anthropological reporting has been deficient in presenting the circumstances surrounding the actual fieldwork which provides the raw data on which conclusions are drawn. Without such information, it is extremely difficult to determine to what extent the researcher may have superimposed his own experiences and beliefs on the material and subsequent conclusions. It is my belief that such information should be as much a part of a study as the raw data or analysis; thus the field experience (Chapter 2) and the perspective of the researcher (Chapter 3) have been presented.

"ACKNOWLEDGMENTS"

In any study of this kind, the groups and people who have contributed at various times are numerous. It is possible to only mention a few of these by name.

I would like to thank the Government of Indonesia, in whose territory of Irian Jaya this study was made. The various government officials and departments who assisted me were many. In particular, I would mention Professor Ir. Soekisno Hadikoemoro, Rector of the University of Cenderawasih, and Dr. Anwas Iskandar, Director of the Institute of Anthropology at the University of Cenderawasih, who eased our way and facilitated our work in the Balim Valley.

Special tribute must be paid to the missionaries and mission pilots of Irian Jaya, for, without their willing assistance, no part of this study could have been possible. Without the help of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship (M.A.F.) and the Associated Missions Aviation (A.M.A.), and their many skilled pilots, no work is possible in the interior. To these groups, we owe our lives, much of our food and our touch with the outside world.

In a large measure, this study is the result of the efforts of the missionaries of Irian Jaya. These dedicated people opened the central highlands and brought about a great many of the changes that I

report. Every missionary, with whom I came into contact, provided time, materials and other assistance. I would single out Father Jules Camps and Father Lambert Dehing of the Catholic Mission. I would also mention Father Michael, Father Houdyck and Father Franz Verheijen who assisted us on numerous occasions. To all of the individuals associated with the Order of Saint Francis in the Balim Valley and Irian Jaya go our special thanks. I would also like to extend my special thanks to the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Especially, I would mention Tom and Fran Bozeman, Marge Rupp and Jean Anthony of the Pyramid station. I would also thank the Maxies, Adams', Andersons, Bromleys and the chairman of the mission, Harold Catto.

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I would like to acknowledge the contributions of other anthropologists. During the course of my training, reading and experiences, I have obviously assimilated a great many ideas and concepts into my own thought which, rightfully, others should be given credit for. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to document where each and every idea might have originated. I cannot take credit for all the thoughts presented in this study. It may be said that each new study in anthropology builds on the past and this study does that. To all of those whose work provided the foundation for my work and combined in the formulation of my basic positions on numerous topics, go my warmest thanks.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the many Dani who are the subjects of this study. Their friendship, patience, and willingness to impart their knowledge and culture to us is responsible for the study.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	ii
Acknowledgments	iv
List of Illustrations	ix
Chapter I. The Setting	1
Historical Background	8
Dani	13
Language	16
Chapter II. The Fieldwork	19
The Research	24
The Preparation	25
Fieldwork Chronology	29
Method	37
Participation	44
Anthropologist and Culture Change	62
Summary	65
Chapter III. The Perspective	66
Culture	68
Considerations and Concepts	70
Logic-in-Use	73
Applied Anthropology	83
Chapter IV. The Culture	86
Social Organization	88
Life Cycle	98
Conflict	102
Religion and The Supernatural	104
Ceremonial Cycle	107
Subsistence	108
Gardens	111
Land	114
Figs	115
Division of Labor	117
Trade	118
Material Culture	120
Culturation	133
Summary	135

Chapter V.	The Programs (Attempts at change and development)	139
	Agencies of Change	144
	Government	144
	Missions	173
	FUNDWI	194
	Education	196
	Dani	201
Chapter VI.	The Change and Analysis	203
	Dani Culture 1972	203
	Evaluation of Change Programs	217
	Analysis of Change Factors	230
Chapter VII.	Conclusions	254
Exhibits		268
Bibliography		284
Appendices		291
	I. Orthography of Indonesian	291
	II. List of Dani Clans	293
VITA		295

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Maps

1. Province of Irian Jaya, Indonesia	2
2. Map of the Balim Valley	6

Exhibits

1. Rainfall as Measured at Wamena	268
2. Rainfall as Measured at Sinepup	268
3. Rainfall as Measured at Yiwika	269
4. Polygynous Family of Titu	270
5. Dani Compound	271
6. Compound Pattern in Southern areas	272
7. Compound Pattern in Northern areas	273
8. Dani Material Culture	275
9. Governmental Structure	276
10. List of Police Trouble Cases in the Balim 1971-72	277
11. Christian and Missionary Alliance Projects	278
12. Catholic Mission Projects	279
13. Statistics on the Catholic Mission Co-operative	280
14. Education Statistics for the Balim Valley 1967-1972	281
15. Education 1972 - By Agency in the Balim Valley	282
16. Catholic Mission Educational Statistics	282
17. Teacher/Student Ratio, Average Class Size	283