

CLUB AND POLITICS: THE TRANSFORMATION OF COLONIAL PUBLIC SPHERE IN THE COLONIAL CITY OF SURABAYA

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The historiography of early-twentieth-century Indonesia assigns great importance to Batavia, the center of the Dutch colonial administration, for its role as the birthplace of the Indonesian national awakening with the formation of Boedi Oetomo (BO, Lofty Intent) on May 20, 1908. This paper argues that instead of progressing in a single direction from Batavia onward, the early nationalist movement in fact occurred simultaneously in many places at once, all over Java. An interesting and unique characteristic of Surabaya in this context was the appearance of a club, the Panti Harsojo, which became a hub for social and political activity among the native educated elite. Restricting its analysis to developments in Surabaya and the formation of the Panti Harsojo, this paper offers an account of political developments in Surabaya that are true to the unique character of political development. The native awakening in Indonesia was thus a diverse movement, giving rise to a range of phenomena in various locations. **Keywords: Batavia, Boedi Oetomo, National Awakening, Surabaya**