

# ISLAM IN PAPUA: A STUDY OF RELIGIOUS IDENTITY, CULTURAL PLURALISM, AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

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## ABSTRACT

This research explores the multifaceted presence of Islam in Papua, Indonesia, a region predominantly Christian and known for its cultural diversity. Examining historical developments, contemporary practices, and the social and political implications of Islam's presence in this unique context, this study seeks to understand the complex interplay between religious identity, cultural pluralism, and regional autonomy. The research will investigate the historical arrival and spread of Islam in Papua, focusing on the role of migration, interfaith dialogue, and the influence of Islamic organizations. It will analyze the contemporary manifestations of Islam in Papua, including diverse expressions of Islamic practice, the role of mosques and Islamic educational institutions, and the contributions of Muslim communities to the social and economic fabric of the region. Furthermore, the study will examine the social and political implications of Islam's presence in Papua, considering issues such as interreligious relations, the role of Islam in regional autonomy movements, and the challenges and opportunities for peaceful coexistence and social harmony in a culturally and religiously diverse environment. By exploring these multifaceted dimensions, this research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamic and evolving role of Islam in Papua, offering valuable insights into the complexities of religious identity, cultural pluralism, and interfaith relations in this unique and significant region of Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Papua, Islam in Indonesia, Interfaith Relations, Religious Pluralism

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