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Twenty years of history (1990-2010) of the relationships between Islam and politics in Madura is simply impossible to capture within the limits of this study. Therefore, only certain aspects of Islam in Madura, which have significantly influenced the daily situation, are highlighted. Important political actors, such as the kiai, the blater, and the klebun; pembangunan programmes that were met with popular resistance; various elections; and events surrounding village politics on Madura are covered. This study examines the relationships between Islam and local politics in Madura and explains that they are understood as an aspect of centralisation during the New Order and decentralisation during the post-New Order. The transformation from one administration to another on Madura, however, should not be understood as an automatic shift from an authoritarian rule to a democratic one. The processes have been marked by many undemocratic changes, continuities, repetitions, and developments in Madurese society.



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