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Jakarta Charter

The **Jakarta Charter** (Indon., *Piagam Jakarta*) is the common name for a text that emerged from debates over the formulation of Sukarno's Pancasila (five pillars) ideology in 1945, in which the fifth of its pillars (in Sukarno's original iteration), asserting Belief in God (*Ke-Tuhan-an*), was further qualified with the addition of a controversial clause that stipulated that Muslims in the new nation would be obliged to observe Islamic law (*dengan kewajiban menjalankan sjar'at Islam bagi pemeluk-pemeluknja*). This formulation (which came to be known as the Seven Words) came to be included in a draft preamble to the national constitution in the months preceding Indonesia's declaration of independence in 1945. In a last-minute reversal, however, the Seven Words on the obligation of Muslims to observe Islamic law were struck from the preamble, reportedly as a concession to the Christian population of the eastern Indonesian archipelago.

This unexpected turn of events came to be viewed by some Muslim Indonesians as a betrayal of their aspirations

for independence and an ungracious recompense for their participation in the struggles that led to it. Some segments of the Muslim community were reluctant to relinquish completely the idea of a constitutional provision for the state implementation of Islamic law. The idea of defining the Indonesian nation as an Islamic state was brought to the table again through the vigorous constitutional debates of the 1950s, which were eventually quashed under Sukarno's system of Guided Democracy (*Demokrasi Terpimpin*). Others took the struggle outside the official arena of politics to pursue armed struggles for the establishment of an Islamic State (*Darul Islam*) in several areas of the country, including West Java, South Sulawesi, South Kalimantan, and Aceh, the last of which was not fully suppressed until 1962. While Islamic political activism was also severely curtailed under President Suharto (in office 1967–98), with the collapse of his New Order regime in 1998 new attempts to reassert the Seven Words of the Jakarta Charter in projects for constitutional reform were launched by some re-emerging Islamist factions but failed to pass when put to a vote before the