Prodjodikoro, Wirjono. *Hukum Perkawinan di Indonesia*. Bandung: Vorkink-Van Hoeve, 1959, 132pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**Matrimonial Law in Indonesia**

*Hukum Perkawinan di Indonesia*

This work presents a survey of laws relating to marriage in Indonesia, drawing on diverse historical, religious and legal perspectives.

This short volume has fifteen chapters, addressing fundamental issues relating to marriage and the law. These include family roles, perspectives on marriage from different religions, permissible and forbidden marital unions, wedding conventions according to different ethnicities and faiths, issues of inheritance, adoption, dowry and respective rights to property within a marriage, and divorce

Wirjono Prodjodikoro was a prominent legal authority in Indonesia prior to and following the nation’s independence. He was educated in the Netherlands and ultimately sat as judge in the Indonesian Supreme Court. His prolific literary output draws on both his Dutch educational background and his own Indonesian ethnic and cultural context. He states in his foreword that a primary motivation for writing this work was to address the widespread hope among Indonesians, especially women, for an improvement in Indonesian laws relating to marriage.

The work is designed to be a basic text that presents foundational legal concepts relating to marriage. Prodjodikoro identifies his audience as law students in universities as well as legal professionals.

The work still has historical value as it records perspectives on marriage at the time of Indonesia’s independence. It also provides a useful window into views of marriage from various religions. However, Indonesian laws on marriage have moved on considerably since this book was written so its relevance to early twenty-first-century Indonesia is limited.

Peter G. Riddell