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**ABSTRACT**

**Today’s *Fiqh*: Complete Answers to Contemporary Issues**

*Fiqih Aktual: Jawaban Tuntas Masalah Kontemporer*

A graduate of Medina Islamic University in Saudi Arabia, Setiawan Budi Utomo now lectures at various universities in Indonesia, such as UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta and IAIN Sunan Gunung Djati, Bandung. Utomo’s work was originally published within the rubric of “contemporary *fiqh*” in *Saksi* magazine.

The work is organised as a series of questions with answers provided by the author and is grouped into six sections that cover various topics. The first section examines political issues such as corruption, embargoes and boycotting products from Israel and the United States, bribery, political slander and *jihad*. The second section looks at economic issues including trading, commodity exchange, franchise-based businesses, e-commerce, multi level marketing-based businesses, bank interest, foreign exchange trading, etc. The third section studies social issues including the division of marital property, insurance, April Fools*,* divorce via SMS, regional minimum wage, foster care, and so on. The fourth section moves on to medical issues that include transgender and genital surgery, euthanasia, urine therapy, in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) and artificial insemination. The fifth section covers health issues and looks at the consumption of alcohol and fruit beverages, the effects of smoking, the consumption of MSG (monosodium glutamate), treatment using cobra blood, consumption of shellfish, delaying menstrual periods, among others. The final section examines religious issues such as inter-religious marriages, polygamy, *pelet* (magic inducing a person to fall in love), *hajj* in crisis conditions, female circumcision, elopement and others.

The author’s answers and legal opinions are consistent with certain principles and rules of *fiqh* embedded in *fatwa*s formulated by Yusuf al-Qaradawi (a contemporary influential Egyptian scholar) and Salman al-Awdah (a prominent Saudi cleric). These principles include avoiding fanaticism, not allowing any one school of Islamic law to take precedence, forming moderate legal opinions, using communicative, popular and current language, avoiding insignificant issues and answering questions with brevity.

As a source of responses to readers’ questions, the book fails to discuss these questions thoroughly, and several discussions are not supported by clear references. Nonetheless, many answers appear quite convincing. Ultimately, readers will benefit from the book as it readily offers valuable information about Islamic law in connection with various contemporary issues.

Zaenul Mahmudi