Yusdani, Amir Mu‘allim. *Ijtihad dan Legislasi Muslim Kontemporer*. Yogyakarta: UII Press, 2005, 193pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**Ijtihad and Contemporary Muslim Legislation**

*Ijtihad dan Legislasi Muslim Kontemporer*

This work presents a scholarly study of the science of *ijtihad*: its history, methodology, principle exponents and application to Indonesia today.

It begins with a scholarly foreword by Professor H. A. Minhaji, addressing authority, continuity and change in the history of Islamic jurisprudence. This is followed by ten chapters and a comprehensive bibliography. The order of presentation of the material by chapters is the history of *ijtihad* (independent interpretation for making legal decisions), use of the Qur’an and hadith in the application of *ijtihad*, various schools of thought on the question of *ijtihad*, the necessary qualifications for the *mujtahid* (scholar of Islamic law), and the application of the principles to the context and needs of modern Indonesia.

The author quickly makes clear his belief in the need for ongoing *ijtihad* so that Islamic texts and teaching can keep pace with the modern world. The author’s scholarly methodology is rigorous: he systematically identifies his sources, engages with relevant scholarly debates, and draws on both Muslim and non-Muslim scholarly sources.

This is a very useful work, both in terms of its valuable foreword and its main study of *ijtihad*, which is such an important concept in today’s Muslim societies. This volume deserves inclusion in relevant university reading lists.

Peter G. Riddell