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**ABSTRACT**

**Islamic Law in Indonesia: Thought and Practice**

*Hukum Islam di Indonesia: Pemikiran dan Praktek*

This work includes papers by various contributors addressing the historical emergence of Islamic law and its place in today’s world, with particular reference to Indonesia.

A 20-page foreword provides an overview of the history of Islamic law in the Middle East, as well as a survey of the historical development of Islamic law in Indonesia since independence. This is followed by ten chapters written by prominent Indonesian scholars of Islam, several of whom also filled elevated political and legal roles, such as K. H. Abdurrahman Wahid (former Indonesian President and Head of the Nahdatul Ulama) and Bismar Siregar (former Indonesian Chief Justice). The chapters consider aspects such as Islamic law as a guide for state development, a comparison of Islamic legal schools and related issues, and Islamic legal philosophy.

The work is valuable for several reasons. It includes contributions from some of Indonesia’s leading Islamic scholars from the last quarter of the twentieth century. Furthermore, it provides insight into thinking on Islamic law in Indonesia’s leading university faculties of law, in both Islamic and State institutions.

Given that the place of Islamic law in the Indonesian State has been a subject of much debate since independence, especially in the late 1940s and 1950s and since 1998, it is surprising that the book does not include a contribution from a more conservative voice arguing for the creation of an Islamic State in Indonesia. The contributors to this volume are all in favour of the status quo, where the Indonesian philosophy of state is based on Pancasila, not sharia.

Peter G. Riddell