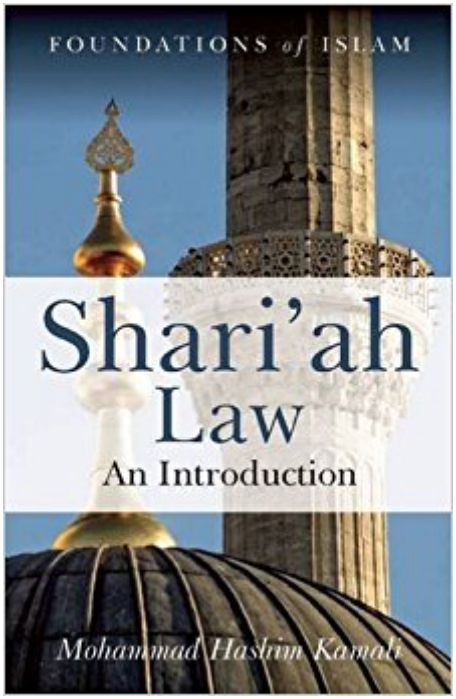
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Shari'ah Law: An Introduction



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Synopsis

Providing a comprehensive and accessible examination of ShariÃ¢â ¬â„¢ah Law, this well considered introduction examines the sources, characteristic features and various schools of thought of a system often stereotyped for its severity in the West. In a progressive and graduated fashion, Mohammad Hashim Kamali discusses topics ranging from juristic disagreement to independent reasoning. Also broaching more advanced topics such as the principle of legality and the role and place of ShariÃ¢â ¬â„¢ah-oriented policy, Kamali controversially questions whether Islam is as much of a law-based religion as it has often been made out to be. Complete with a bibliography and glossary, and both a general index and an index of Arabic quotations, this wide-ranging exploration will prove an indispensable resource for Islamic students and scholars, and an informative guide to a complex topic for the general reader. Professor Dr Hashim Mohammad Kamali is the Dean of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC) at the International Islamic University, Malaysia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An extremely valuable work and a useful companion for students of law, Islamic studies and Muslim world affairs. A balanced, comprehensive and progressive exposition of Islamic legal thought -- Mahmood Ahmad Ghazi, President, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan"Goes far beyond an 'introduction'; it is indeed an excellent compendium of Islamic jurisprudence." -- Tahir Mahmood, Chairman, Amity University Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, India, and former chairman of the National Minorities Commission, India"Kamali's masterful introduction is the best way to get introduced to the rich tradition of Islamic law. An exquisite

accomplishment." -- Omid Safi, Director, Middle Eastern and Islamic Civilizations Studies (MIST) Program, Colgate University

Professor Dr Hashim Mohammad Kamali is the Dean of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC) at the International Islamic University, Malaysia.

If you're looking for a primer on Islamic law suitable for absolute beginners with no prior exposure to the subject, I'm afraid you'll have to look elsewhere. Although this book bills itself as "An Introduction" to Shari'ah law, it actually presupposes that the reader already has a pretty solid background in the basics of Islamic religion, culture, and history, and in at least the fundamentals of what Shari'ah is and how Shari'ah-based legal systems work. It doesn't spend much time at all on the basics of, for example, how cases are adjudicated in Shari'ah courts, how lawyers and judges do their jobs in Shari'ah-based legal systems, or how Shari'ah law differs from English common law or European civil law. Instead, it launches right into a discussion of rather esoteric issues of interpretation within Shari'ah law. It's really more of an intermediate-level text on Islamic law than a true introduction to the subject. If, like most non-Muslims in the West, you know next-to-nothing about law in the Muslim world, then you probably won't get very much out of this book, since you aren't really its intended audience. This is not a book aimed at Western students of comparative law, much less at laypeople in the West who are merely curious about how Islamic legal systems work; rather, it was written for elites within the Muslim world who actually live under Shari'ah-based legal systems, and need to have a better understanding of the underlying principles of Shari'ah so they can make better-informed decisions about the important political, social, economic, and religious issues facing their countries today. And, while this book does contain valuable information about the historical development of Islamic law, about the different schools of interpretation within the Shari'ah tradition, and about the general principles of interpretation used in Shari'ah law, it devotes much of its time and attention to making recommendations for how Shari'ah can be reformed and modernized to meet the challenges of the 21st century -- including reforms designed to improve the rights of women, to promote democracy, and to discourage extremism within the Muslim world. So, in many ways, this book is more of a treatise than a textbook, and concerns itself more with political advocacy than with basic legal education. If you have already studied the fundamentals of Islamic law and want to deepen your understanding of the subject, you should definitely read this book; but if you are a novice in the subject who just wants to learn the basics of Shari'ah in order to satisfy your curiosity about how law works in the Muslim world, this really isn't

the book for you.

Kamali’s "Shari’ah Law: An Introduction" is a great basic overview of Shari’ah Law, and it puts Shari’ah in its proper context. It can get a bit complicated sometimes because of the numerous Arabic terms, but overall is great. The main reason for my five star rating, besides my interest in the subject and the great information found in Kamali’s book, is that too often Shari’ah Law is viewed through a Western lens. Kamali does not do this. While he does occasionally provide context for Western readers, he shows how Shari’ah Law developed in Islam, and what the Law is derived from. I’ve used this book in for several papers, as well as when lecturing to students, and each time I pick it up it seems I’ve learned something new (even though I’ve read it a few times now). Overall, I highly suggest Kamali’s book.

Excellent book! Well-written and readable. Not too basic and not too dry. This book covers every major pertinent topic, from development of the four madhahab to modern issues, such as democracy, gender issues, suicide bombing, moderation and balance, and recent developments and reforms in Islamic law.Highly recommended.

Great book!

Good review of Shari’ah law

A very good introduction, also for non-muslims.Helps understand the basics to be able to go further for those who want to, or just to satisfy one’s curiosity on the subject.

Having spent many years in the middle east I can tell you that the idea of Shariah law is pure madness.Having read the Koran I can tell you that the western cultures of Europe and America are 110% incompatible with Islam’s laws. I cannot understand how the leftists have glommed onto Islam as a centerpiece of their platform, considering that they also support Feminism, Homosexuality, Bi-Sexuality and transgenerism. These are all Haram - Forbidden in the world of Islam.Quran 7:80-84, 15:74, 27:58 and 29:40 Islam threatens death to homosexualsQuran 2:282 Women are worth only 1/2 of what a man isAnd many others.Please do not fool yourself. Islam is incompatible with democracy or in the case of America, Constitutional Republics. Take your death cult back to the lands from where it was spawned.

The book is excellent, however, I order many other books after ordering this book, and the later books coming from a futher distance, and they actually arrived before my Shar'ia Law book.

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