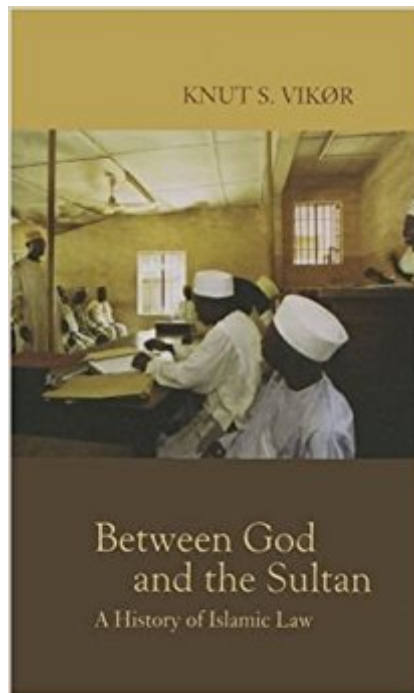




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Between God And The Sultan: A History Of Islamic Law



Synopsis

The contrast between religion and law has been continuous throughout Muslim history. Islamic law has always existed in a tension between these two forces: God, who gave the law, and the state--the sultan--representing society and implementing the law. This tension and dynamic have created a very particular history for the law--in how it was formulated and by whom, in its theoretical basis and its actual rules, and in how it was practiced in historical reality from the time of its formation until today. That is the main theme of this book. Knut S. Vikor introduces the development and practice of Islamic law to a wide readership: students, lawyers, and the growing number of those interested in Islamic civilization. He summarizes the main concepts of Islamic jurisprudence; discusses debates concerning the historicity of Islamic sources of dogma and the dating of early Islamic law; describes the classic practice of the law, in the formulation and elaboration of legal rules and practice in the courts; and sets out various substantive legal rules, on such vital matters as the family and economic activity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Knut S. Vikor is an Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Bergen in Norway.

I respect this book . It's not perfect. After all it's like a survey book . But this book has an immense information about the logic behind Islamic laws & even on the background of Islam . A perfect first read about Islam . And it's nearly devoid of subjective views . Simply informational. Great !

one of the best book you will ever read. its clear cut, its very informative, but as usual as any non-muslim auther, it stretches mohammed's "marriage life" but it has less gossipe than other books

Great book, very rare and detailed insight into the judicial structure of many islamic countries past and present, strongly recommended!

I read Vikor's work for my recent seminar on Islamic Law. Vikor takes a very cursory approach to the history Islamic Law, which is good since it's a HUGE topic! My professor (who specializes in Islamic Law) said that Vikor's book has done what few others in the field do--summarize the major points of the history of Islamic Law without getting bogged down in scholarly debates. With sparse application of his overview, Vikor writes a dry text. However, as a reference, it's fabulous. Reading it through in its entirety was difficult the first time, but when I recently wrote a research paper on Turkey, it became very useful. Vikor also includes a glossary at the end that lists all of the Arabic (and some Turkish) legal terms, so looking up obscure words is a cinch!

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