

Resumé

Development and differentiation islamic law in countries of the Middle East

Islamic law influences to a greater or lesser extent the nature of the system of governance in every Muslim country, the legal system and the social order in general. The aim of my work was to make an introduction to Islamic law, as seen from the angle of its historical evolution, sources and differentiation in evidence in every Muslim country in the Middle East.

In the first chapter I defined the term the Middle East. This term is frequently used in the media but it is not always correctly interpreted. This is followed by a chapter devoted to the development of Islamic law, where I examined the main periods in its genesis, from the first appearance of Prophet *Muhammad* and the rule of the first four orthodox Caliphs, the dynasties of the *Umayyads* and *Abbasids*, to the advent of the Ottoman Empire.

To the character of Islamic law I dedicated the fourth chapter, which describes its dominant features, so that the reader can put together a picture of how Islamic law should be approached. In the chapter on the sources of Islamic law I focused my attention on the four principal sources, i.e. the Qur'an, the Sunnah, and the consensus of scholars and analogies. I equally paid attention to some supplementary sources and methods that can be employed to obtain legal norms from reputable sources.

For a full understanding of Islamic law I considered it necessary to outline the origins, the development, and the influence of Islamic legal science on Islamic law. From the last chapter devoted to specific legal systems of selected countries it is clear that Islamic law is not a rigid unchanging legal system unaffected by modern times and not reflecting the needs of contemporary society.

This work should serve as an introduction to Islamic law. My objective was to outline some differentiation factors affecting this legal system and to highlight the fact that Islamic law is not an immutable and rigid legal system unable to reflect the needs of modern society.