

Sharia (Islamic Law) in the Contemporary World: A Legal Research Guide

Volume 76

By: Christopher Anglim

Reference Librarian, University of the District of Columbia & American University Washington College of Law

- First and only research guide of its kind
- A comprehensive bibliography of essential academic literature on Sharia law
- Unravel the complex theories, principles and rules of Islamic jurisprudence
- Perfect for students, professors, or anyone studying Sharia's impact on a wide variety of national and international legal issues



About This Title

Sharia (Islamic Law) is one of the most established and controversial legal systems in the world. The literal meaning of Sharia is “the way to the watering hole” and is Islam’s prescribed way (or set of guidelines) for living morally and achieving salvation. Based on the Koran and the Sunnah—the sayings and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad—Islamic law is the result of efforts of scholars over centuries, to translate God’s will into a legal system of mandatory beliefs and behavior.

Because Sharia governs the lives of 900 million people worldwide, this legal system is cornerstone of the national law of several nations, and Sharia is playing an increasingly important role in international business transactions, banking/finance, and various aspects of personal law in many nations. Furthermore, many Americans have an erroneous or incomplete view of Sharia, and sometimes these views give rise to counterproductive ideas such as Islamophobia.

This research guide presents historical and doctrinal perspectives required to understand the development of Islamic jurisprudence and its application. In addition to its historical treatment, this work also covers selected current issues of significance. The first part provides background information on Sharia (including its origins and history, what it consists of, and its methodology) and an introduction to many of the issues that Sharia addresses. The second part contains a concise yet comprehensive annotated bibliography of academic legal literature to assist those researching Sharia. Individual sections cover primary sources (including statutes and case law), while subsequent chapters deal with secondary materials such as journals, treatises, and reference works on substantive areas of law. The goal of this work is to enhance the understanding of Islamic law; in so doing, it explains the complexity of reconciling law with custom, and religious laws with secular laws.

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Table of Contents

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PREFACE

- Overview
- Purpose of the Work

I. INTRODUCTION

- Understanding Islamic Law
- The Basic Sources of Islamic Law
- What Is Sharia?
- Difference between Sharia and Sunna
- How the Sharia Developed
- The Role of the Quran in Islamic Law
- The Significance of the Hadith in Islamic Law
- The Role of Sharia to Islamic Law
- Development of Sharia
- Ritual Law (Ibadat)
- Fasts
- Zakat
- Hajj
- Difference between the Sharia and Fiqh
- Distinguishing between the Sharia and Islamic Jurisprudence
- Islamic Jurisprudence
- Judicial Interpretations of Sharia
- How Sharia Differs from Western Legal Systems
- Current Significance of Islamic Law
- Legal Areas under Sharia
- Criminal Law under Sharia
- Schools of Islamic Jurisprudence
- The Legal Significance of Sharia Law
- The Application of Sharia Law

- Research Strategy
- Principles of Islamic Law

II. WORKS IN SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF LAW

- General
- Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh, Usual al-fiqh)
- Ijtihad (Legal Reasoning)
- Schools of Islamic Law (madhashib)
- Sunni School
- Shia School
- Furu al-Fiqh (Areas of Substantive Law, Branches of the Law)
- General Works of Islamic Law
- Histories of Islamic Law
- Arbitration (Community-based Arbitration)
- Banking and Financial Institutions
- Islamic Finance
- Business Practices
- Commercial Law
- Comparative Law
- Constitutional Law
- Corporations
- Criminal Procedure
- Corporate Law
- Criminal Law
- Family Law (including Domestic Relations)
- Family Law
- General
- Arbitration
- Child Custody
- Children
- Conflicts of Law
- Divorce

- Marriage Contracts
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Finance
- Freedom of Speech and Other Types of Expression
- Honor Killings
- Human Rights
- Intellectual Property
- International Arbitration
- International Contracts
- International Law—General
- Internet
- Jihad
- Jurisprudence
- Media Law
- Opt Out Provisions
- Property
- Slavery
- Torts (Private Wrongs)
- Women
- General Issues
- Inheritance and Succession
- Reproductive Rights

III. REFERENCE SOURCES OF SHARIA

- Scholarly Compilations
- Dictionaries
- Histories
- Quran
- Commentaries on the Quran
- Encyclopedias
- Handbooks

About the Author

Christopher Anglim is a Reference Librarian at the University of the District of Columbia & American University Washington College of Law, Pence Law Library with a JD, MBA, MPA, MLS, and a MA in History. In addition, he is in the process of completing his Masters in Homeland Security (MHS). Anglim has focused on achieving an effective balance between individual liberties and reasonable protections against terrorism and other national security threats. He is active in organizations such as the Center of Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. He has written several other books, articles, and papers on issues of law, political science, government, religion, and business, Anglim is also a previous winner of the **AALL Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographic Award** for his title *Joined in Common Enterprise: A Bibliography on the Origins of Early Anglo-American Partnership Law*.

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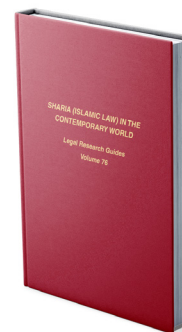
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