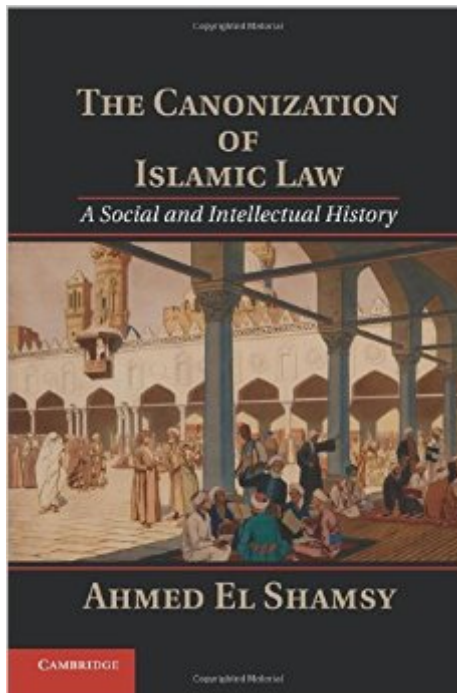# The Canonization Of Islamic Law: A Social And Intellectual History

Synopsis

The Canonization of Islamic Law tells the story of the birth of classical Islamic law in the eighth and ninth centuries CE. It shows how an oral normative tradition embedded in communal practice was transformed into a systematic legal science defined by hermeneutic analysis of a clearly demarcated scriptural canon. This transformation was inaugurated by the innovative legal theory of Muá¸¥ammad b. IdrÄ«s al-ShÄ•fiÊ¿Ä« (d. 820 CE), and it took place against the background of a crisis of identity and religious authority in ninth-century Egypt. By tracing the formulation, reception, interpretation, and spread of al-ShÄ•fiÊ¿Ä«'s ideas, the author demonstrates how the canonization of scripture that lay at the heart of al-ShÄ•fiÊ¿Ä«'s theory formed the basis for the emergence of legal hermeneutics, the formation of the Sunni schools of law, and the creation of a shared methodological basis in Muslim thought.

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Customer Reviews

One of the best books written on Islamic Law in the past few decades by an up and coming scholar in the field of Islamic law. Cutting edge work that challenges and furthers our understanding of Islamic legal development in the early period. An enjoyable and very well-written read that elegantly straddles a discussion for both specialists and a broader audience.

This is one of the best books you'll find on the development of Islamic law. Ahmed El Shamsy is one of the top scholars in this field currently and his narrative and analysis of the early development of Islamic law are presented sophisticated yet approachable manner in this volume. He shows a

mastery of both modern Western academic approaches towards early Islamic history as well as traditional Islamic legal texts that puts this book a step above most others. Overall, an enjoyable and beneficial read!

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