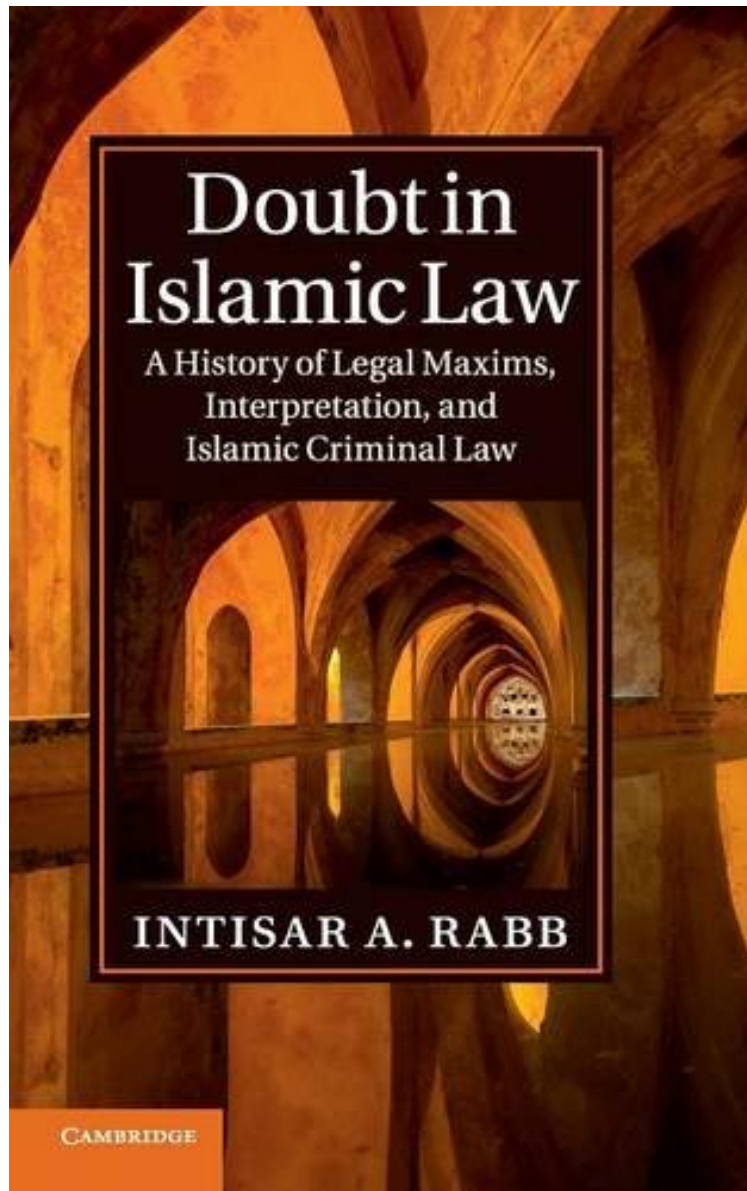


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Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization)

Intisar A. Rabb

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Intisar A. Rabb : Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization)*:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I am glad I bought and even more thrilled now that I ...By Zora N. Prof. Rabb does what few Islamic legal scholars do: make the detail of the law accessible. This thoroughly engaging and informative treatment of an Islamic legacy long overlooked but critical to legal deliberations and commentary on "terrorist" rhetoric today, it is a must have for those who want to know about a truly rich surrounding one legal concept that contextualizes thought in the legal tradition. I am glad I bought and even more thrilled now that I have read it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book and engaging to read By Fournier23 This is a thoroughly researched and novel exploration of the concept of doubt across various facets of Islamic law. It is accessible not only to Islamic legal scholars, but also to those who are interested in the subject and want to learn more about it. Rabb writes with a lively and engaging style, which guides the reader along through complex ideas, digging into richly complicated territory with expert knowledge and direction. She also tells many stories from Islamic history and literature, which provides a fuller picture of the subject. I would highly recommend to scholars and students in Islamic law, as well as readers who would like to learn about the subject. 0 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Rabb's book is full of Sharia apologetics and propaganda; ...By Customer Rabb's book is full of Sharia apologetics and propaganda; her interest is death to American liberty, and the destruction of our constitutional freedoms. She preaches this same hatred of American values at Harvard, where she explicitly aims to "build a community of Islamic law scholars in the academy and dictate policy and media discourse about Islamic law.

This book considers an important and largely neglected area of Islamic law by exploring how medieval Muslim jurists resolved criminal cases that could not be proven beyond a doubt. Intisar A. Rabb calls into question a controversial popular notion about Islamic law today, which is that Islamic law is a divine legal tradition that has little room for discretion or doubt, particularly in Islamic criminal law. Despite its contemporary popularity, that notion turns out to have been far outside the mainstream of Islamic law for most of its history. Instead of rejecting doubt, medieval Muslim scholars largely embraced it. In fact, they used doubt to enlarge their own power and to construct Islamic criminal law itself. Through a close examination of legal, historical, and theological sources, and a range of illustrative case studies, this book shows that Muslim jurists developed a highly sophisticated and regulated system for dealing with Islam's unique concept of doubt, which evolved from the seventh to the sixteenth century.

"In her extremely detailed book, Intisar Rabb traces the formation of the legal maxim of doubt in Islamic criminal law from the seventh until the eleventh century (CE) within both the Sunni and Shi'i legal traditions ... Rabb's book offers an important contribution to the study of Islamic law. She has shown how the Muslim legal elite, even the eponymous Sunni jurists and their immediate successors, were individual human agents with a pragmatic bent, and as such their juridical thinking was shaped by complex and diverse goals such that they never arrived at a uniform definition of doubt. Neither did they limit themselves to a specific canon of "texts" in order to develop an increasingly sophisticated jurisprudence of doubt by the eleventh century." Nurfadzilah Yahaya, *Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamicate World* About the Author Intisar A. Rabb is Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and the director of its Islamic Legal Studies Program. She also holds an appointment as a Professor of History and as Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.