



## *The Ottoman Ibadis of Cairo*

Ibadi Muslims, a minority religious community, historically inhabited pockets throughout North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and the East African coast. Yet less is known about the community of Ibadi Muslims that relocated to Egypt. Focusing on the history of an Ibadi-run trade depot, school and library that operated in Cairo for over three hundred years, this book shows how the Ibadi Muslims operated in and adapted to the legal, religious, commercial, and political realms of the Ottoman Empire from the seventeenth to early twentieth centuries. Using a unique range of sources, including manuscript notes, family histories and archival correspondence, Paul M. Love, Jr. presents an original history of this Muslim community told from the bottom up. Whilst illuminating the events that shaped the history of Egypt during these centuries, he also brings to life the lived reality of a Muslim minority community in the Ottoman world.

PAUL M. LOVE, JR. is Associate Professor of North African, Middle Eastern, and Islamic History at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. He is a former Fulbright scholar and received three prestigious Critical Language Scholarships from the United States Department of State. His research has been funded by the Arcadia Foundation, the Council for American Overseas Research Centers, the Social Sciences Research Council, the American Institute for Maghrib Studies, and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. He previously published *Ibadi Muslims of North Africa* (2018).

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-25428-1 — The Ottoman Ibadis of Cairo  
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# The Ottoman Ibadis of Cairo

A History

PAUL M. LOVE, JR.  
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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
 978-1-009-25428-1 — The Ottoman Ibadis of Cairo  
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**CAMBRIDGE**  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
 New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009254281](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009254281)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009254267

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First published 2024

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Love, Paul M., Jr., 1985- author.

Title: The Ottoman Ibadis of Cairo : a history / Paul M. Love, Jr., Al Akhawayn  
 University, Morocco.

Description: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2023. | Includes  
 bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023008014 (print) | LCCN 2023008015 (ebook) | ISBN  
 9781009254281 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009254298 (paperback) | ISBN  
 9781009254267 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Ibadites–Egypt–Cairo–History. | Cairo (Egypt)–Ethnic relations. | Cairo  
 (Egypt)–History.

Classification: LCC BP195.I3 L685 2023 (print) | LCC BP195.I3 (ebook) | DDC 297.8/  
 33096216–dc23/eng/20230306

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023008014>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023008015>

ISBN 978-1-009-25428-1 Hardback

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*For Sarra, Sophia, and Julia*

نحبكم بارشا!

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## *Acknowledgments*

As I write this, I am listening to my daughter Julia (four) explain to her sister Sophia (six) the bad dream that has woken her up at 6:20 a.m. The soothing calm of their whispering voices, the quiet of this morning in Ifrane, and the warmth of our home despite the cold outside, together remind me how fortunate I have been to have had this space to work on this book over the past several years. What a pleasure it is to sit down and thank all the people who have helped me do it. But first, a quick note on how I arrived at this point.

The present book emerged out of a realization I had when writing my first book on the history of late medieval Ibadi Muslim communities in the Maghrib. Despite my best efforts to go back further in time, most of the manuscripts I used dated from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. To my surprise, a significant number of those had been copied not in the Maghrib but in Cairo, at a place referred to in the colophons as the “Wikālat al-Jāmūs.” This place, so central to the production of knowledge for Ibadis over more than three centuries, rarely featured in histories of the community. This realization led me to write this book. The researching and writing of it, however, were only possible because of the support and collaboration I have received from a wide variety of people and institutions.

I begin with my institutional home for the past six years, Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, where I have found a community of scholars who have offered both the intellectual support and the friendship that have been essential in allowing me to finish this book. In particular, I thank my old office mate and friend, Derek Elliott, who listened patiently to me from across the room as I went on and on about the Buffalo Agency for years. Throughout that time he offered suggestions, feedback, and jokes. He and Katja Žvan Elliott were intellectual companions and friends to me and Sarra from my very first day at AUI, and I am so grateful to have worked with and learned from them. Their son Phinn played no less an important role through his

friendship with our daughters. Other friends and colleagues from AUI, including Said Ennahid, Matthew Lehnert, Driss Maghraoui, Nizar Messari, Naeem Nizar Sheikh, the venerable John Shoup, and so many others have been invaluable companions as I have thought through the ideas in this book. Abdelghani Kharroufi offered tremendous help in reading through some late Ottoman documents from the Tunisian National Archives with me. Without hesitation and with his customary kindness, Eric Ross agreed to prepare the maps of Cairo that enrich the pages of this book as both analytical tools and visual stimulants.

The students of AUI have pushed me to think more carefully about my position as a North American researcher living and teaching in North Africa, and I am grateful for how working with them challenges me to reflect critically on my scholarship and courses every day. A few of those students have contributed directly to this project and merit special mention. Hiba Mezzyane typed out the table of religious endowments from the Tunisian National Archives with which I open the introduction. Saad Dersi conducted an honors project on the correspondence between French colonial administrators and qāids in Jerba that helped me understand better the colonial-era administration of endowments in Tunisia. NAMES graduate students Imad Bella and Afra Gasgar carried out projects on Ottoman court documents and modern Turkish writings on Ottoman Egypt, respectively. Their work offered me perspective in my attempt to understand the larger historical context of Ibadis in the Ottoman Empire. As the process of writing this book has come to a close, Sahar Khamoosh and her project on Ibadi women reformers in Libya and Egypt have offered me a new perspective for which I am grateful.

Beyond AUI, colleagues from so many places offered support, resources, and feedback as I worked through the project. In Jerba, the list of friends and family who have helped is too long to mention everyone but special thanks to ‘Alī al-Būjadidī, Sa‘īd al-Bārūnī, Sanā’ al-Bārūnī, Munjī al-Bāsī, the Bin Ya‘qūb family, Maḥfūz Daḥmān, Shaykh Farḥāt al-Ja‘abīrī, Fātin al-Ḥarrāzī, Muḥammad al-Marīmī, Aḥmad Muṣliḥ, Imen Soued, and Zuhayr Taghlīt. Special thanks, as always, to the extended Raīs and El Cadi families in Jerba and in Tunis for everything they do. A deep thanks to my mother-in-law, Bahija El Cadi, who has for many years entertained my frequent questions about family names in Jerba. Also in Tunis, Mohamed Bennani and Rushdī al-Mas‘adī acquired resources for me without which I would not have

## *Acknowledgments*

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been able to write the book. Under the extraordinary leadership of Laryssa Chomiak, the Centre d'Études Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT) has been an anchor for me in Tunis for a decade, and its library was invaluable for this project. Thanks to the entire team there. The Tunisian National Archives (ANT) are always a pleasure to work at, in large part because the team working there is so helpful and kind. Thanks to friends and colleagues in the Mzab, Algeria, especially Mohammed Hadj Said at the Jam'iyyat Abī Ishāq Itfayyish for providing me with data on manuscripts connected to Egypt and to Nāṣir Bilḥāj for sharing his research on the Mzab in the Ottoman era. Thanks to new friends in Libya, who have helped me learn about manuscript libraries there, especially Shaykh 'Alī al-Mazāwī and Tawfiq al-Shaqrūnī.

Among those based outside the Maghrib, many thanks to Hiba Abid, Luca Bartoli, Youssef Ben Ismail, Martin Custers, Ersilia Francesca, Adam Gaiser, Amal Ghazal, Augustin Jomier, Peter Kitlas, Evyn Kropf, Boris Liebreznz, Sarra Madani, 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Sālīmī, the late Kathryn Schwartz, Werner Schwartz, Ola Seif, Jan Just Witkam, Kimberly Wortmann, and Jonathan Wyrzten. Special thanks to Ashleigh Pearce for her photography mission to the Tulun district in Cairo, to Hiba Belhadj for resources from the AUC, and to the one and only Amanda Propst for so many supporting materials and fun over the years. Many thanks also to Valerie Hoffman, who offered both translation and contextual guidance on Omani scholarship for Chapter 5. My friends and colleagues at Ibadica in Paris cannot be thanked enough. Thanks to Slimane Tounsi, Mongi Ben Maad, Nabil Debeez, and Yacine Daddi Addoun for fruitful collaborations and friendship. Ibadica's director, Soufien Mestaoui, is a dear friend, and it is no exaggeration to say that without his help I could not have completed a single chapter of what follows.

I have also had the opportunity to share my ideas for this book at several venues, each of which has marked it in important ways. These include the 2017 International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, the 2017 Ibadi Studies Conference at the University of Tokyo, the 2018 Ibadi Studies Conference at the University of Toronto, and the panel on the premodern Maghrib at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in 2020. Thanks to Vermondo Brugnattelli and the entire group in Milan at Biblioteca Ambrosiana's V Dies Academicus of the Classis Africana in January 2019; to friends at the

AUI Brown Bag Series in February 2020; to Ann Blair and Matthew Steele for the invitation to share work with colleagues at the Mahindra Humanities Center Seminar in Book History at Harvard University in October 2021; to Chouki El Hamel, Yacine Daddi Adoun, Soufien Mestaoui and the other amazing organizers of and participants in the Minorities in the Maghreb conference in Djerba in May 2022. Special thanks (and an apology) to Finbarr Barry Flood and everyone at the Silsila Center for Material History at NYU, who spent their budget to bring me from Morocco to New York in March 2020 – only to have me get sick and stay at the hotel. Thanks also to participants in our two workshops on Ibadi Manuscripts and Manuscript Cultures (AUI 2019; BULAC 2022).

The book's different written versions have benefited from the comments, suggestions, and critiques offered by friends and colleagues. Thanks to Derek Elliott, Adam Gaiser, Will Hanley, and Katja Žvan Elliott for reading and commenting on proposals for the book. I am also deeply grateful to those who took the time to read and to comment on chapter drafts. Thanks to Nael Khader for reading Chapter 3, Youssef Ben Ismail for reading Chapter 4, to Kimberly Wortmann for reading Chapters 5 and 6, to Augustin Jomier for reading Chapters 6 and 7, and Werner Schwartz for reading Chapter 7. Soufien Mestaoui read the entire manuscript and offered helpful comments and support. The anonymous reviewers for CUP offered suggestions for improvements that clarified my arguments and strengthened the book significantly. The shortcomings and errors that remain are all mine.

Support from a variety of institutions and organizations allowed me to carry out research for the book. Thanks to the American Institute for Maghrib Studies for a short-term research grant to do archival work in Tunis in 2019 and to the Humboldt-Yale Fellowship for a grant to do work at the British National Archives in 2019. My work has also benefited from adjacent projects supported by the Endangered Archives Programme, administered by the British Library and funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin. Our two EAP projects, the El Bessi Family Library Project (EAP993, 2017–2018) and the Jerba Libraries Project (EAP1216, 2019–2021), refined my understanding of manuscript culture in Jerba and the Mediterranean. Thanks to the team members of both those projects for their tenacity and work. Additional huge thanks to the entire team

*Acknowledgments*

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at Cambridge University Press for their support of the project, especially Rachel Imrie, Atifa Jiwa, Maria Marsh, and Natasha Whelan. I am so thankful for the remarkable copyediting by Mary Starkey, whose attention to detail I both admire and envy.

The deepest gratitude and thanks I have to offer is reserved for my incredible family. Sophia and Julia, every day you offer me surprise welcomes, laughs, cartoons, art projects, and challenging questions that enrich my life more than all the books I have ever read. Sarra, you are an intellectual and emotional partner in all things I do. Thank you for letting me talk about the characters in this book over and over again at dinner, for traveling with me, for always being supportive no matter what the circumstances. My love for you and my appreciation for your presence in my life cannot be captured by words.

Thank you so much, everyone.

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978-1-009-25428-1 — The Ottoman Ibadis of Cairo  
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