

Ahmad Qābel and Contemporary Islamic Thought

Ahmad Qābel (1954–2012) was one of the key figures in the “New Religious Thinking” trend of reformist thought, whose radical views were some of the most daring of his generation, seeking to rationalize and modernize understandings of the shariah. In this comprehensively researched and accessibly written book, Lloyd Ridgeon offers an original examination of Qābel’s writings, including the articles that comprise his seminal work *Shari‘at-e ‘aqlāni (Rational Shariah)*. Throughout his career, Qābel crossed many political and religious redlines set by the Principlist authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, resulting in several prison terms and hastening his premature death while under hospital arrest. Chapters covering jurisprudence, religious history, politics, gender relations, apostasy, society and superstition unravel Qābel’s worldview, introducing and illuminating his work for all readers. With extended translations from Qābel’s compositions, including two articles from *Shari‘at-e ‘aqlāni*, Ridgeon offers the necessary context to understand the resounding significance of Qābel’s ideas and arguments.

Lloyd Ridgeon is Reader in Islamic Studies at the University of Glasgow. He has published much on medieval Persian Sufism, including *Awḥad al-Dīn Kirmānī and the Controversy of the Sufi Gaze* (2018). He also has a keen interest in modern Iran, as reflected in his publication *Hijab* (2021). He is also the chief editor of the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-009-32222-5 — Ahmad Qābel and Contemporary Islamic Thought

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Rational Shariah in Twenty-First-Century Iran

Lloyd Ridgeon
University of Glasgow



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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

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 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009322225

DOI: 10.1017/9781009322263

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First published 2023

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Ridgeon, Lloyd V. J., author.

Title: Ahmad Qābel and contemporary Islamic thought : rational Shariah in
 twenty-first-century Iran / Lloyd Ridgeon.

Description: 1. | New York : Cambridge University Press, 2023. | Includes
 bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022043172 (print) | LCCN 2022043173 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781009322225 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009322263 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Qābil, Ahmad, 1957–2021. | Muslim scholars – Iran – Biography.

| Islam and politics – Iran – 21st century. | Shī'ah – Iran – History – 21st century. |

Islamic law – 21st century.

Classification: LCC BP80.Q224 R53 2023 (print) | LCC BP80.Q224 (ebook) |

DDC 297.092 [B]–dc23/eng/20221215

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022043172>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022043173>

ISBN 978-1-009-32222-5 Hardback

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