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## THE ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF ISLAMIC LAW

Long before the rise of Islam in the early seventh century, Arabia had come to form an integral part of the Near East. This book, covering more than three centuries of legal history, presents an important account of how Islam developed its own law while drawing on ancient Near Eastern legal cultures, Arabian customary law and Quranic reform. The development of the judiciary, legal reasoning and legal authority during the first century is discussed in detail as is the dramatic rise of Prophetic authority, the crystallization of legal theory and the formation of the all-important legal schools. Finally, the book explores the interplay between law and politics, explaining how the jurists and the ruling elite led a symbiotic existence and mutual dependency that – seemingly paradoxically – allowed Islamic law and its application to be uniquely independent of the “state.”

Wael B. Hallaq is a James McGill Professor of Islamic Law, teaching at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University. He is the author of *Ibn Taymiyya Against the Greek Logicians* (1993), *A History of Islamic Legal Theories* (1997) and *Authority, Continuity and Change in Islamic Law* (2001).

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## THEMES IN ISLAMIC LAW I

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*McGill University*



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*Maps*

- 1 Arabia ca. 622 AD
- 2 Muslim lands in the third/ninth century







2 Muslim lands in the third/ninth century

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