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0521792266 - Crime and Punishment in Islamic Law: Theory and Practice from the Sixteenth to the Twenty-first Century

Rudolph Peters

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CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN ISLAMIC LAW

Rudolph Peters' book is about crimes and their punishments as laid down in Islamic law. In recent years some Islamist regimes, such as those of Iran, Pakistan, Sudan and the northern states of Nigeria, have reintroduced Islamic law in place of Western criminal codes. This was after the abolition of Islamic criminal law in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Previously, during the pre-modern period, Islamic criminal law was applied across the Muslim world, and there are many examples of that application in the abundant archives and other sources of the period. Peters gives a detailed account of the classical doctrine and traces the enforcement of criminal law from the Ottoman period to the present day. The accounts of actual cases which range from theft to banditry, murder, fornication and apostasy shed light on the complexities of the law, and the sensitivity and perspicacity of the *qāḍīs* who implemented it. This is the first single-authored account of both the theory and practice of Islamic criminal law. It will be invaluable for students, and scholars in the field, as well as for professionals looking for comprehensive coverage of the topic.

RUDOLPH PETERS is Professor of Islamic law at Amsterdam University. He has published extensively on the subject. His books include *Jihad in Classical and Modern Islam* (1996) and *Sharia Criminal Law in Northern Nigeria* (2003).

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RUDOLPH PETERS

Amsterdam University



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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page vii
<i>Maps</i>	viii
1 Introduction	I
2 The classical doctrine	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Enforcement and procedure	8
2.3 General principles of substantive criminal law	19
2.4 The penalties	30
2.5 Homicide and bodily harm	38
2.6 <i>Ḥadd</i> offences	53
2.7 Discretionary punishment on the strength of <i>ta' zīr</i> and <i>siyāsa</i>	65
3 The implementation of Islamic criminal law in the pre-modern period: the Ottoman Empire	69
3.1 Introduction	69
3.2 Shari'a and <i>qānūn</i>	71
3.3 The enforcement agencies	75
3.4 Procedure	79
3.5 Substantive law	92
4 The eclipse of Islamic criminal law	103
4.1 Introduction	103
4.2 Anglo-Muḥammadan criminal law and its demise: British India and Nigeria	109
4.3 Legal dualism: the separation between the domains of Shari'a and <i>siyāsa</i> : the Ottoman Empire and Egypt	125
5 Islamic criminal law today	142
5.1 Introduction	142
5.2 Uninterrupted application of Islamic criminal law: the example of Saudi Arabia	148

Cambridge University Press

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Sixteenth to the Twenty-first Century

Rudolph Peters

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

Contents

5.3	The reintroduction of Islamic criminal law	153
5.4	Islamic criminal law and human rights standards	174
6	Conclusion	186
	<i>Glossary of technical terms</i>	191
	<i>Bibliography</i>	197
	<i>Suggestions for further reading</i>	208
	<i>Index</i>	212

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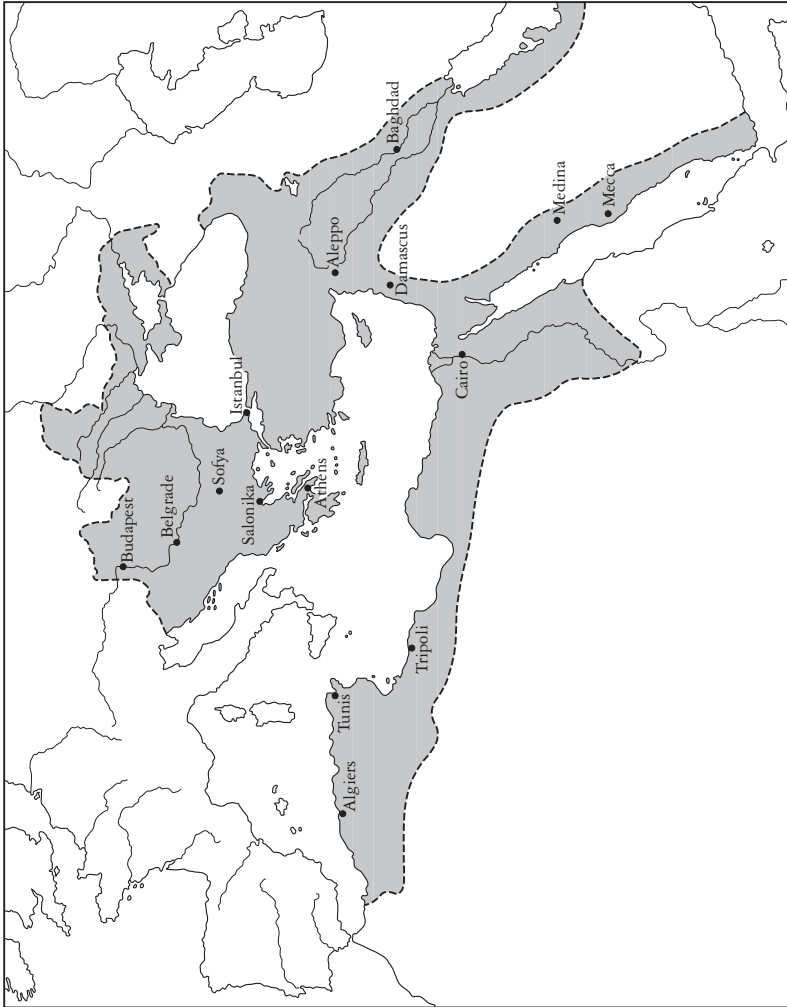
Rudolph Peters

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Map 1. The Ottoman Empire around 1600



Map 2. (cont.)

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Frontmatter
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Map 3. The spread of Shari' criminal law in Nigeria (dark grey)