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978-1-107-00964-6 - Radical Islam and the Revival of Medieval Theology

Daniel Lav

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Radical Islam and the Revival of Medieval Theology

With a scope that bridges the gap between the study of classical Islam and the modern Middle East, this book uncovers a profound theological dimension in contemporary Islamic radicalism and explores the continued relevance of medieval theology to modern debates. Based on an examination of the thought of the medieval scholar Taqī al-Dīn Ibn Taymiyya (d. 1328), the book demonstrates how long-standing fault lines within Sunni Islam have resurfaced in the past half-century to play a major role in such episodes as the Quṭbist controversy within the Muslim Brotherhood, the split between radical salafis and politically quietist ones, the renunciation of militancy by Egyptian and Libyan jihadist groups, and the radicalization of the insurgency in the North Caucasus. This work combines classical Islamic scholarship with a deep familiarity with contemporary radicalism and offers compelling new insights into the structure of modern radical Islam.

Daniel Lav is currently a PhD candidate in Islamic and Middle East Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
 Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
 32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA
www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107009646

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First published 2012

Printed in the United States of America

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

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Lav, Daniel, 1975–
 Radical Islam and the revival of medieval theology / Daniel Lav.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-00964-6 (hardback)

1. Islamic fundamentalism – History. 2. Islam – Doctrines –
 History. 3. Salafiyah. 4. Ibn Taymiyah, Ahmad ibn ‘Abd al-Halim,
 1263–1328. I. Title.

BPI66.I4.F85L38 2012

297.209–dc23 2011038743

ISBN 978-1-107-00964-6 Hardback

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Certainly, peace among citizens cannot endure while there is no consent about the factors thought necessary for eternal salvation.

– Thomas Hobbes, *Vitae Hobbianae Auctarium*

Indeed, the *fitna* of unbelief, apostasy, and polytheism is worse than the *fitna* of bloodshed, and it is worse than killing.

– Abū Muḥammad al-Maqdisī, *Tabṣīr al-‘uqalā’*

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Acknowledgments

It is a pleasant duty to thank those who have helped this book see the light of day. First and foremost, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ella Landau-Tasseron, who supervised an earlier version of this work that was submitted as a Master's Dissertation at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Without her continued help and encouragement this book would never have been published. I have likewise benefited greatly from the comments and advice of Bernard Haykel, Yohanan Friedmann, and anonymous readers for the Hebrew University and Cambridge University Press. I would like to thank Rafael Green and Aryeh Tepper for reading various drafts of this work, and Eli Alshech for many an enlightening discussion on salafi jihādī matters. I would also like to express my warm gratitude to Marigold Acland and her colleagues at Cambridge University Press.

In the course of my research I have enjoyed financial support from the Nehemia Levtzion Center for Islamic Studies, the Abir Scholarship, and the Hebrew University's PhD Honors Program. I wish to express my profound gratitude for their generosity.

I first encountered a number of sources used in this book, particularly in Chapter 6, in my work at the Jihad and Terrorism Threat Monitor (memrijtm.org). My thanks go out to my friends and former colleagues there, from whom I have learned much.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents, Michael and Iris, for everything.

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