

Governing Islam

Governing Islam traces the colonial roots of contemporary struggles between Islam and secularism in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The book uncovers the paradoxical workings of colonial laws that promised to separate secular and religious spheres, but instead fostered their vexed entanglement. It shows how religious laws governing families became embroiled with secular laws governing markets, and how calls to protect religious liberties clashed with freedom of the press. By following these interactions Stephens asks us to reconsider where law is and what it is. Her narrative weaves between state courts, Islamic *fatwas* on ritual performance, and intimate marital disputes to reveal how deeply law penetrates everyday life. In her hands law also serves many masters – from British officials to Islamic jurists to aggrieved Muslim wives. The resulting study shows how the neglected field of Muslim law in South Asia is essential to understanding current crises in global secularism.

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Governing Islam

Law, Empire, and Secularism in South Asia

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To my parents, Sharman and Michael Stephens
Who gave me the freedom to wander
And a family full of love and good food to come
home to

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Note on Translation, Transliteration, and Abbreviations

Unless otherwise noted, all translations are my own. When translating directly from non-English sources, I have followed the transliteration scheme employed in John T. Platts, *A Dictionary of Urdu, Classical Hindi, and English*, while omitting any diacritical accents. When citing names from primary sources, I have followed as closely as possible the actual spelling in the texts, although some standardization across sources has sometimes been necessary when referring to a single individual. For historically well-known people, places, and terms, I have tried to use common spellings to avoid confusion.

The following abbreviations are used in the text:

AIR	All India Reporter
HCPP	House of Commons Parliamentary Papers
IJE	Indian Journal of Economics
ILR	Indian Law Reports
IOR	India Office Records
NAI	National Archives of India
TOI	Times of India