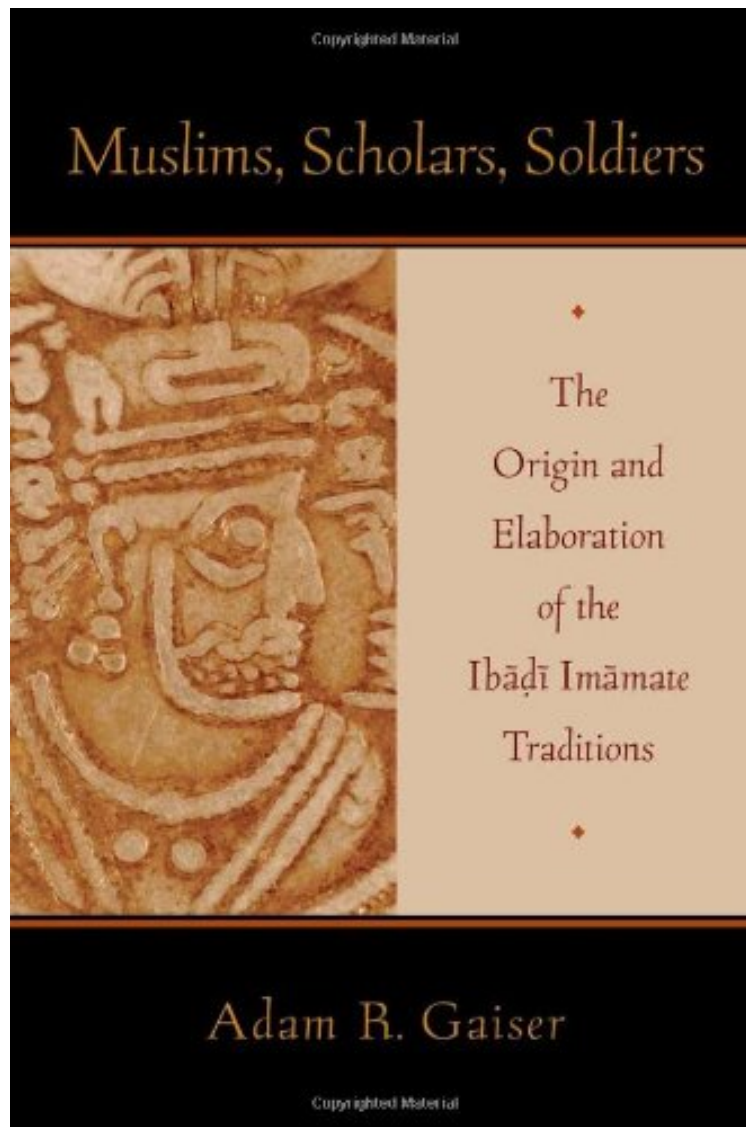


[Ebook pdf] Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadi Imamate Traditions (Aar Academy Ser)

Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadi Imamate Traditions (Aar Academy Ser)

Adam Gaiser

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Adam Gaiser : Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadi Imamate Traditions (Aar Academy Ser) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadi Imamate Traditions (Aar Academy Ser):

A study of the origin and development of the Ibadite Imamate ideal into its medieval Arabian and North African articulations, this study traces the distinctive features of the Ibadite imamate to precedents among the early Kharijites, Rashidun Caliphs and pre-Islamic Arabs. Using the four "states of religion" (masalik al-din) as an organizing principle for its chapters, the book examines the four associated Imam-types that are appropriate to such states - the Imam al-Zuhur (Imam of Manifestation), Imam al-Difa'a (Imam of Defense), Imam al-Shari (the "Seller" Imam who triumphed over his enemies or "sold" himself to God in the attempt) and Imam al-Kitman (Imam of Secrecy) - and locates each Imam-type within a trajectory of Ibadite development. Some distinctive features of the Ibadite Imamate tradition, such as the shari Imam who selflessly fought for the establishment of the Ibadite polity, are shown to be rooted in the early Kharijite martyrdom narratives that were appropriated by the Ibadiyah and later transformed into systematic doctrines. Still others, such as the "weak" Imam who accepted provisional authority under the control of the 'ulama` hearken back to pre-Islamic patterns of limited authority that subsequently found their way into early Islamic political norms. Working from a perspective that challenges the "exceptional" interpretation of Kharijite and Ibadite doctrine and practice, this study seeks to root much of Ibadite political theory in the same early traditions of Islamic political practice that later provided legitimacy to Sunni Muslim political theorists. The result is a historically grounded and complex presentation of the development of political doctrine among the sole remaining relative of the early Kharijites.

"Gaiser brilliantly traces the ideal of the Ibadite Imamate to its roots in the Kharijites, the Rightly Guided Caliphs, the Qur'an, the authority of Muhammad, and also the pre-Islamic tribal society. Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers brings a wealth of information on one of the least studied subjects in Islam, provides a fresh and unique perspective on the course of Islamic history, and corrects the common scholarly misperception of the Kharijites and Ibadiyah." --Hussam S. Timani, author of *Modern Intellectual Readings of the Kharijites* "The Ibadiyah may be few in number today, but their history of authority provides an important alternative understanding of the religio-political debates and divisions that shaped early Islam. Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers traces out the history of the Ibadite Imamate with clarity and erudition. It will become essential reading for anyone interested in the Ibadiyah and Kharijites in particular and Islamic political authority in general." --Jeffrey T. Kenney, author of *Muslims Rebels: Kharijites and the Politics of Extremism in Egypt* "Gaiser provides a fresh perspective on early Islamic intellectual history through a critical, thematic exploitation of Ibadite Muslim sources on the nature of legitimate authority (imamate). He shows how Ibadite theory was based on precedents in earlier Kharijite, early Islamic and pre-Islamic tribal institutions of authority, and his recognition of Ibadite Muslims as a third branch of early Islam enables us to escape the Sunni-Shiite dichotomy." --Michael Morony, Professor of History, University of California-Los Angeles "Gaiser provides a comprehensive description not only of the development of Ibadism today and its roots, but how religious identities and institutions are created." --*Middle East Journal* "Any cogent, serious study of the Kharijites is a welcome addition to the study of Islamic history. Although there have been very good studies of the Kharijites in English and Arabic, the tendency is to view them as an anomalous socioreligious phenomenon whose primary analytical value is to bring into historical relief the Sunni and Shi'ite schools of thought. Adam Gaiser's *Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadite Imamate Traditions*, however, attempts to fill a wide gap through carefully organized research that explores the interconnections between various Kharijite and non-Kharijite communities in the late seventh through early tenth centuries CE." --*The Journal of Religion* "A concise but depthful essay on early Islamic political thought, based on the study of the Kharijite and Ibadite Imamate theory. This work will certainly contribute to enhance scholars' interest in the intellectual legacy of this forgotten Islam." --*Der Islam* About the Author Assistant Professor of Religion, Florida State University