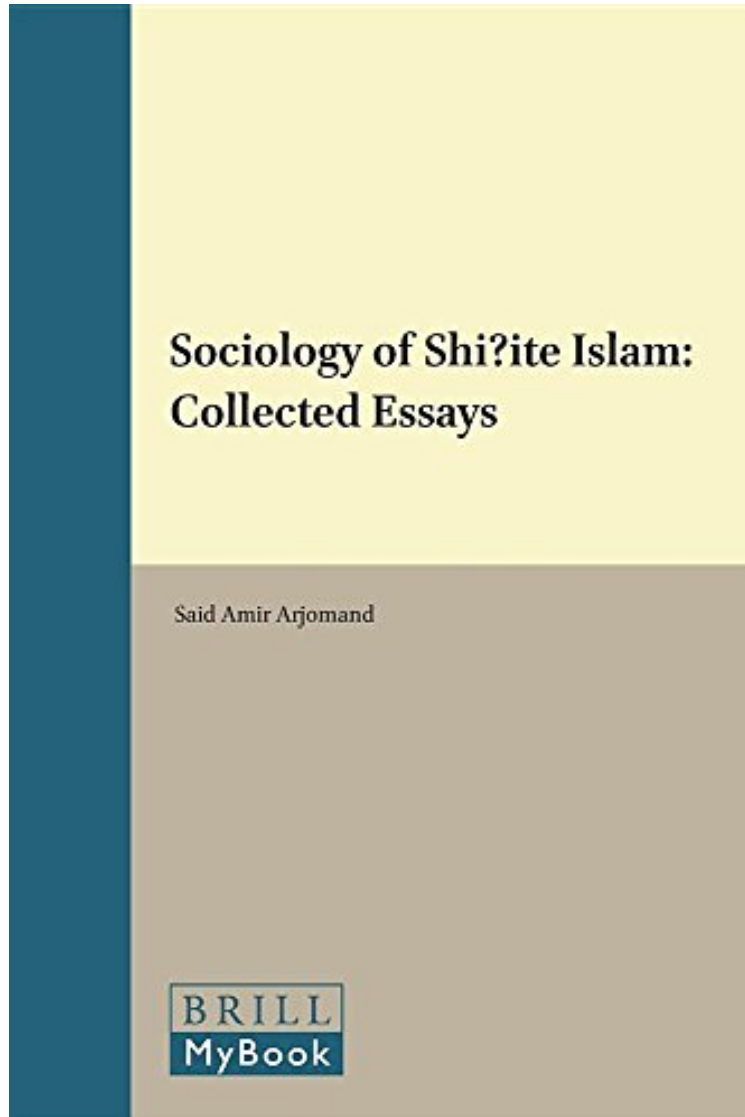


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Sociology of Shi'ite Islam: Collected Essays

Said Amir Arjomand

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Sociology of Shiite Islam is a comprehensive study of the development of Shiism. Its bearers first emerged as a sectarian elite, then a hierocracy and finally a theocracy. Imamate, Occultation and the theodicy of martyrdom are identified as the main components of the Shiism as a world religion. In these collected essays Arjomand has persistently developed a Weberian theoretical framework for the analysis of Shiism, from its sectarian formation in the eighth century through the establishment of the Safavid empire in the sixteenth century, to the Islamic revolution in Iran in the twentieth century. These studies highlight revolutionary impulses embedded in the belief in the advent of the hidden Imam, and the impact of Shiite political ethics on the authority structure of pre-modern Iran and the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

About the Author Said Amir Arjomand (Ph.D, University of Chicago, 1980) is Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology and Director of the Stony Brook Institute for Global Studies, President of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies and Editor of the Journal of Persianate Studies.