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**ABSTRACT**

**Police in Islamic Legal Systems and Positive Laws: A Comparative Study Between Islamic Sharia Law and Positive Law**

*الشرطة في النظم الإسلامية و القوانين الوضعية: دراسة مقارنة بين الشريعة و القانون*

The work by Muhammad Ibrahim al-Asbi‘i aims to introduce the reader to a system of policing found within the Islamic State, from its beginning to its subsequent development during various eras, using a comparison with positive law. The book is based on the author’s Master’s thesis.

The first section of the book is divided into two themes. The first deals with the policing systems used in ancient civilisations. The second focuses on the social, political, financial and security conditions in the Arabian Peninsula before the appearance of Islam.

The second and third sections deal with the development of the policing system in the Islamic world from the early stages until the Ottoman period. The book then focuses on the policing system in modern Libya. The book covers topics related to the nature of police work, including the working conditions and obligations of police. There is also a section on the importance of public participation in the maintenance of security.

The ninth section of the book focuses on the links between the police and three other systems within the Islamic State: the judicial system, the verification (*hisbah*) system and the system of inequity (*mazalim*). The tenth section discusses four famous figures in the history of Islamic policing: Salah al-Din al-Ayubi, al-Hajaj ibn Yusuf al-Thaqfi, Tahir ibn al-Husayn al-Khuza‘i, and Khuzaima ibn Khazim al-Tamimi.

The author has sought to reference his information in a detailed manner using footnotes and a list of references. The list begins with the title “Firstly, Arabic sources” which gives the reader the impression that a section for foreign references will follow. However, the second section deals with contemporary works.

Overall, this book deals with a subject that has received little attention until now. The author has provided a simple, comprehensive outline of various police organisations and their historical development in both established legal systems and the Islamic State. The information is provided in an organised manner. One drawback is that the title does not indicate that the book deals with a number of points relating to Libya.

Dahlia Sabry

Translated by Hugh Lovatt