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**ABSTRACT**

**History of *Fiqh* and Islamic Law**

*Fıkıh Tarihi ve İslam Hukuku*

This 282-page book focuses on the historical evolution of Islamic law. It was published by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and this abstract is based on the fourth edition of 1975.

The book consists of two main chapters. In the first chapter, the historical development of *fiqh* (a term that means “to understand, to know, to apprehend” but which is also used as a synonym for law) is analysed, while concentrating on the main periods, namely *wahy* (revelation), *sahabah*, *tabi‘un*, *ijtihad*, *taqlid* and *aljmod*. In this regard, parallel to developments in Islam, the main principles and purposes of Islamic legal rules and the sources of law are explained: in particular the Qur’an, the Sunna (the sayings and conduct of the Prophet Muhammad), *qiyas* (analogy), *ijtihad* (independent reasoning) and *ijma‘* (consensus). Also, information is provided in great detail about the emergence and development of schools of law (the Hanafi, Shafi‘i and Hanbali *madhab*s in particular), along with their influence on the legal order and the main imams and *fuqaha'* (legal scholars) of each school.

The second chapter of the book, which is more substantial than the first, focuses on the fields of Islamic law and the organisation of the state. Personal status law, family law and inheritance law are described in detail and the principles governing contracts, foundations and corporations are provided. The judicial system in general, the *qadi*s (judges), legal actions, rules of evidence and presumptions are explained under procedural law, whereas under *‘uqubat* (Islamic criminal law) the fundamentals of *hadd* (punishment) and the main sanctions, including *qisas* (retaliation) and *diyah* (compensation), are analysed. The language used in the second chapter is clearer than in the first, and there is a short but useful glossary at the end, although it is not in alphabetical order. Overall, the book can be considered a useful and objective resource for gaining an insight into the fundamentals of *fiqh* and Islamic law.

Ceren Ünal