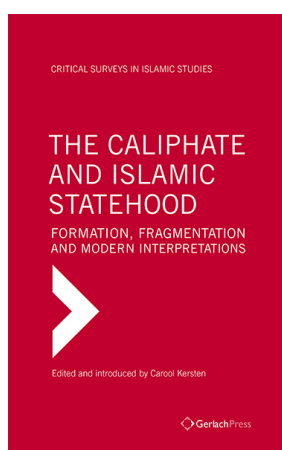


**TITLE INFORMATION****CAROL KERSTEN****THE CALIPHATE AND ISLAMIC STATEHOOD -  
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Although the Caliphate was formally abolished ninety years ago, it had already ceased to exist as a unitary and effectively administered political institution many centuries earlier. The ever widening gap between political ideal and historical reality is also reflected in the varying conceptualizations and theories of the Caliphate developed by Islamic religious scholars and Muslim intellectuals past and present. However, recent events in the Islamic world show that the idea of a Caliphate still appeals to Muslims of varying persuasions.

This three-volume reference work tracks the history of the Caliphate as what many Muslims believe to be a genuine and authentic Islamic political institution: From its emergence in seventh-century Arabia until highly contested and controversial attempts of its revival at the beginning of the twenty-first century by radical Islamists in Afghanistan and Iraq. No matter how grandiose such interpretations of a seemingly archaic institution may be, they show the Caliphate's longevity as a rallying point - real or symbolic - for Muslims across the world.

- **Volume 1** Origins and Formation
- **Volume 2** Challenges and Fragmentation
- **Volume 3** Modern and Contemporary Interpretations

**Key Subjects**Middle East Studies, Islamic Studies,  
Politics, Philosophy**About the Authors/Editors**Carol Kersten, Reader in the Study of Islam & the Muslim  
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# Contents

## VOLUME I: ORIGINS AND FORMATION

<b>Introduction: Origins and Formation</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Carool Kersten</i>	

## BACKGROUND

<b>1. The Term “Khalifa” in the Early Exegetical Literature</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Wadād al-Qādī</i>	
<b>2. Political Ideas in Early Islamic Religious Thought</b>	<b>20</b>
<i>Josef van Ess</i>	
<b>3. The Formation of the Islamic State</b>	<b>34</b>
<i>Fred M. Donner</i>	
<b>4. The Separation of State and Religion in the Development of Early Islamic Society</b>	<b>55</b>
<i>Ira M. Lapidus</i>	
<b>5. Frontiers and the State in Early Islamic History: Jihād Between Caliphs and Volunteers</b>	<b>76</b>
<i>Robert Haug</i>	

## THE RIGHTLY-GUIDED CALIPHS (632-661CE)

<b>6. Legal Authority of the <i>Sunnah</i>: Practice of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs and Views of the Early <i>Fuqahā'</i></b>	<b>87</b>
<i>Muhammad Yusuf Faruqi</i>	
<b>7. Muhammad’s Authority and Leadership Reestablished: The Prophet and ‘Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb</b>	<b>101</b>
<i>Avraham Hakim</i>	

<b>8. The Murder of the Caliph ʿUthmân</b>	<b>114</b>
<i>Martin Hinds</i>	
<b>THE UMAYYAD CALIPHATE (661-750CE)</b>	
<b>9. Some Accounts of Women Delegates to Caliph Muʿāwīya: Political Significance</b>	<b>134</b>
<i>Maya Yazigi</i>	
<b>10. Was ʿUmar II “a True Umayyad”?</b>	<b>146</b>
<i>Hasan Qasim Murad</i>	
<b>11. Reinterpreting al-Walīd bin Yazīd</b>	<b>163</b>
<i>Steven Judd</i>	
<b>12. The Redemption of Umayyad Memory by the ʿAbbasids</b>	<b>186</b>
<i>Tayeb El-Hibri</i>	
<b>THE EARLY ABBASID CALIPHATE (8-9TH CENTURIES)</b>	
<b>13. The Tribal Factor in the ʿAbbāsīd Revolution: The Betrayal of the Imam Ibrāhīm bin Muḥammad</b>	<b>214</b>
<i>Khalid Yahya Blankinship</i>	
<b>14. The Caliph, the ʿUlāmāʾ, and the Law: Defining the Role and the Function of the Caliph in the Early ʿAbbāsīd Caliphate</b>	<b>235</b>
<i>Muhammad Qasim Zaman</i>	
<b>15. A Reexamination of three Current Explanations of al-Maʿmūn’s Introduction of the <i>Miḥna</i></b>	<b>265</b>
<i>John A. Nawas</i>	
<b>16. All in the Family? Al-Muʿtaṣim’s Succession to the Caliphate as to the Lifelong Feud between al-Maʿmūn and his ʿAbbāsīd Family</b>	<b>281</b>
<i>John A. Nawas</i>	
<b>References</b>	<b>291</b>

# Contents

## VOLUME II: CHALLENGES AND FRAGMENTATION

<b>Introduction: Challenges and Fragmentation</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Carool Kersten</i>	

## CALIPHATES AND COUNTER-CALIPHATES (9<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES)

<b>1. Religious Policies of the Caliphs from al-Mutawakkil to al-Muqtadir, AH 232/295/ AD 847-908</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Christopher Melchert</i>	
<b>2. The Command of the Faithful in Al-Andalus: A Study in the Articulation of Caliphal Legitimacy</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>Janine Safran</i>	
<b>3. The Initial Destination of the Fatimid Caliphate: The Yemen or the Maghrib?</b>	<b>46</b>
<i>Shainool Jiwa</i>	
<b>4. The Fāṭimids and Egypt 301-358/914-969</b>	<b>57</b>
<i>Yaacov Lev</i>	
<b>5. The Realm of the Imām: The Fatimids in the Tenth Century</b>	<b>66</b>
<i>Michael Brett</i>	
<b>6. An Early Fāṭimid Political Document</b>	<b>88</b>
<i>Wadād al-Qāḍī</i>	
<b>7. The Ismaili Da‘wa in the Reign of the Fatimid Caliph Al-Ḥākim</b>	<b>113</b>
<i>Paul E. Walker</i>	

**ARAB CALIPHS AND TURKISH SULTANS  
(13<sup>TH</sup>-17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES)**

8. **The Story of the Death of the Last Abbasid Caliph, from the Vatican MS of Ibn-al-Furāt** 142  
*G. Le Strange*
9. **Studies on the Transfer of the ‘Abbāsīd Caliphate from Bagdād to Cairo** 147  
*David Ayalon*
10. **Some Observations on the ‘Abbāsīd Caliphate of Cairo** 162  
*P. M. Holt*
11. **Luṭfī Paşa on the Ottoman Caliphate** 171  
*Hamilton A. R. Gibb*
12. **The Idea of the Caliphate between Moroccans and Ottomans: Political and Symbolic Stakes in the 16th and 17th Century-Maghrib** 179  
*Abderrahmane El Moudden*
13. **The Man Who Would be Caliph: A Sixteenth-Century Sultan’s Bid for An African Empire** 188  
*Stephen Cory*

**BETWEEN HISTORICAL REALITY AND POLITICAL IDEAL:  
CALIPHS AND ULAMA**

14. **Caliphs, Jurists and the Saljūqs in the Political Thought of Juwaynī** 210  
*Wael B. Hallaq*
15. **Islamic Orthodoxy or Realpolitik? Al-Ghazālī’s Views on Government** 226  
*Carole Hillenbrand*
16. **The Legal Policies of the Almohad Caliphs and Ibn Rushd’s Bidāyat al-Mujtahid** 252  
*Maribel Fierro*
17. **An Eighteenth-Century Theory of the Caliphate** 272  
*Aziz Ahmad*
- References** 279

# Contents

## VOLUME III: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATIONS

<b>Introduction: Modern and Contemporary Interpretations</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Carool Kersten</i>	

### OTTOMAN CALIPHATE OR ARAB CALIPHATE?

<b>1. Opposition to the Ottoman Caliphate in the Early Years of Abdülhamid II: 1877-1882</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Ş. Tufan Buzpinar</i>	
<b>2. The Pan-Islamic Appeal: Afghani and Abdülhamid II</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>Nikki R. Keddie</i>	
<b>3. “Taking Back” the Caliphate: Sharif Husayn Ibn ‘Ali, Mustafa Kemal and the Ottoman Caliphate</b>	<b>44</b>
<i>Joshua Teitelbaum</i>	
<b>4. Egypt and the Caliphate 1915-1946</b>	<b>53</b>
<i>Elie Kedourie</i>	

### CALIPHATE OR NO CALIPHATE?

<b>5. The Indian Khilāfat Movement (1918-1924)</b>	<b>84</b>
<i>M. Naeem Qureshi</i>	
<b>6. The Destruction of the Ottoman Caliphate</b>	<b>97</b>
<i>Facsimile from: Advocate of Peace Through Justice (April 1924)</i>	
<b>7. Muslims of the Dutch East Indies and the Caliphate Question</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Martin van Bruinessen</i>	

<b>8. Arab Religious Nationalism in the Colonial Era: Rereading Rashīd Riḍā's Ideas on the Caliphate</b>	<b>118</b>
<i>Mahmoud Haddad</i>	
<b>9. The Central Argument (from: <i>A Religion Not a State: Ali 'Abd al-Raziq's Islamic Justification of Political Secularism</i>)</b>	<b>158</b>
<i>Souad T. Ali</i>	
<b>PAN-ISLAMISM REDUX</b>	
<b>10. Pan-Islamic Tendencies and the General Muslim Congress of 1931</b>	<b>175</b>
<i>Uri M. Kupferschmidt</i>	
<b>11. Taqī al-Dīn al-Nabhānī and the Islamic Liberation Party</b>	<b>204</b>
<i>David Commins</i>	
<b>12. Hizbut Tahrir: Islam's Ideological Vanguard</b>	<b>222</b>
<i>Noman Hanif</i>	
<b>THE CALIPHATE TODAY</b>	
<b>13. The Caliphate</b>	<b>250</b>
<i>Vernie Liebl</i>	
<b>14. Legal Evaluation of the Proclamation of the Caliphate</b>	<b>271</b>
<i>Shaykh Abu al-Mundhir al-Shinqiti</i> <i>(translated from the Arabic by Carool Kersten)</i>	
<b>15. <i>Khilafa</i> as the Viceregency of Humankind: Religion and State in the Thought of Nurcholish Madjid</b>	<b>278</b>
<i>Carool Kersten</i>	
<b>References</b>	<b>293</b>