



Court Cultures in the Muslim World: Seventh to Nineteenth Centuries (Soas/Routledge Studies on the Middle East)

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Courts and the complex phenomenon of the courtly society have received intensified interest in academic research over recent decades, however, the field of Islamic court culture has so far been overlooked. This book provides a comparative perspective on the history of courtly culture in Muslim societies from the earliest times to the nineteenth century, and presents an extensive collection of images of courtly life and architecture within the Muslim realm.

The thematic methodology employed by the contributors underlines their interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to issues of politics and patronage from across the Islamic world stretching from Cordoba to India. Themes range from the religious legitimacy of Muslim rulers, terminologies for court culture in Oriental languages, Muslim concepts of space for royal representation, accessibility of rulers, the role of royal patronage for Muslim scholars and artists to the growing influence of European courts as role models from the eighteenth century onwards. Discussing specific terminologies for courts in Oriental languages and explaining them to the non specialist, chapters describe the specific features of Muslim courts and point towards future research areas. As such, it fills this important gap in the existing literature in the areas of Islamic history, religion, and Islam in particular.

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About the Author

Albrecht Fuess is Professor of Islamic Studies at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. He specialises in the history of the Middle East (thirteenth to sixteenth centuries). Among his publications is *Verbranntes Ufer: Auswirkungen mamlukischer Seepolitik auf Beirut und die syro-palästinensische Küste (1250-1517)*, Leiden: Brill 2001.

Jan-Peter Hartung has taught at the universities of Erfurt, Bonn and Bochum and is currently Senior Lecturer for the Study of Islam at SOAS, University of London. He specialises in Indo-Muslim intellectual history. Among his publications is *Viele Wege und ein Ziel: Leben und Wirken von Sayyid Ab? l-Hasan 'Al? al-Hasan? Nadw? (1914-1999)*, Würzburg: Ergon 2004.

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