

# Islamic Jurisprudence

## An International Perspective

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Message from

**His Eminence the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar  
University, Cairo**

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The events of September 11, 2001 caused the whole world to focus its attention on the importance of cross-cultural understanding, lack of which is a prime cause of many of the tensions that exist in the world today. This incident dramatically highlighted the age old wisdom that humanity cannot divide itself into compartments functioning in cultural isolation from each other but must see itself as one large family with an enormously rich cultural inheritance drawn from all the world's civilizations. This is the common inheritance of all and no parts of this culture are the exclusive preserve of some.

This age of massive destructive weaponry demands a re-orientation of our thinking from the catastrophic spectre of a clash of civilizations to the constructive vision of a confluence of civilizations – a coming together of all the elevating influences that have ennobled the human race.

This book focuses attention powerfully on the confluence of civilizations by showing how the much misunderstood Islamic civilization was a powerful fertilizer of world culture and indeed the very progenitor of the discipline of international law.

**1. His Excellency Dr. Ahmed S. El-Kosheri, President of Senghor University, Alexandria and Judge Ad Hoc of the International Court of Justice.**

I have the pleasure to address to your Excellency the present letter expressing my true and sincere feelings after re-reading your most appreciated book on Islamic International Law during the past few weeks which followed the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001.

I honestly consider your book the best study written on the subject throughout the last century, not only in English but also in all other languages available to me, including the Arabic language, which is my mother tongue.

Therefore, I do believe that it would be important for humanity at large and international lawyers in particular to have access to your book, not only in its original English version, but also in other languages. I hereby confirm my willingness to assist in undertaking the measures necessary to prepare an Arabic translation of the book if your kind self and your editor would be agreeable to grant the permission required for that purpose.

**2. Dr. M. Hidayatullah, former Chief Justice of India and Vice-President of India.**

'The book has made a definite advance on other books in this field. Books on Islamic jurisprudence have been written before and, in India. Abdur Rahim's book *Muslim Jurisprudence* has been for a long time the only book suitable for scholars. However, it did not deal adequately, it at all, with Islamic jurisprudence in an international setting. This want has now been removed by Professor Weeramantry.'

**3. Dr. Inamullah Khan, Secretary General of the World Muslim Congress in The Muslim World, July 1989**

'This book will be of immense guidance to all belonging to the legal profession, be they lawyers or judges. It is equally good for non lawyers as it is couched in simple language and gives a broad based picture of Islamic Jurisprudence. This valuable book deserves to be in all the important libraries of the world.'

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