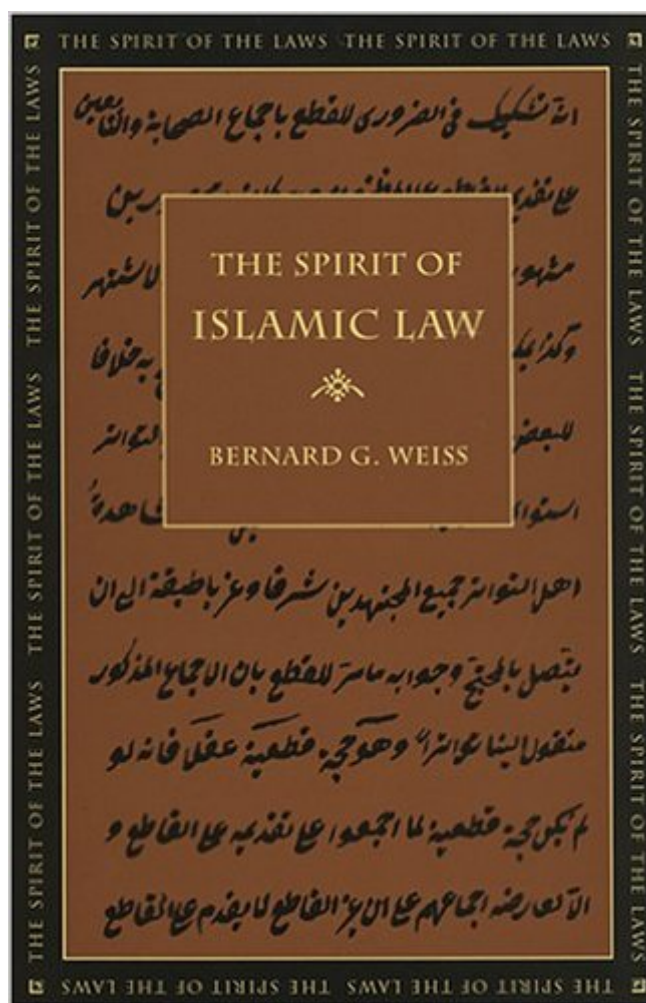


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# The Spirit Of Islamic Law (The Spirit Of The Laws Ser.)



## Synopsis

This study focuses on a Muslim legal science known in Arabic as *usul al-fiqh*. Whereas the kindred science of *fiqh* is concerned with the articulation of actual rules of law, this science elaborates the theoretical and methodological foundations of the law. *The Spirit of Islamic Law* outlines the prominent features of Muslim juristic thought: espousal of divine sovereignty; a fixation on divine texts; an uncompromisingly intentionalist approach to the interpretation of those texts; a frank acknowledgment of the fallibility of human endeavor to capture divine intent; a toleration of legal diversity; a moralistic bent grounded in a particular social vision; and finally, a preoccupation with the affairs of private individuals—especially family relations and contracts—coupled with a concern to define the limits of governmental power. *The Spirit of Islamic Law* is the fifth book in Georgia's *Spirit of Laws* series, which illuminates the nature of legal systems throughout the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Muslim legal science is a science connected to yet separate from Islamic faith, and *THE SPIRIT OF ISLAMIC LAW* delves into these connections and differences, examining the main features of Muslim jurisdiction and law, divine texts which are used as legal foundations, interpretations in the attempt to capture the divine as it relates to legal matters, and more. Author Bernard Weiss is a professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at the University of Utah: his treatise is both detailed yet accessible to college-level readers studying Islamic traditions. The history of how such laws were formulated makes for an involving read. Diane C. Donovan [California Bookwatch](#)

I read this recently for my seminar on Islamic law. Weiss brings up some great insights as he discusses Islamic law, but I found many of his chapters to be meandering works where I got a little lost. He never uses section headings within a chapter and sometimes I found myself unclear about where he was going with his ideas. It's a very dense text and makes the best sense when reread. Also, as a student, I found the skimpy index unhelpful when I needed to go on a treasure hunt for a buried quote.

This book is wonderfully written and easy to understand, even for beginners in the field, such as myself. It outlines the processes by which classical Islamic law and government came into being without being drawn out. Wonderful book.

This was the first book I pick up regarding the Muslim religion and I recommend starting somewhere else. This book is written with great detail which one may think is a good thing but I personally though made it a trying read. I was forced to re-read several paragraphs just to grasp the concepts. This book digs into the seeming complicated religious law but without adding any real life to it. I do recommend if your aim is to understand a fully as possible. It did mention several concepts other books did not.

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