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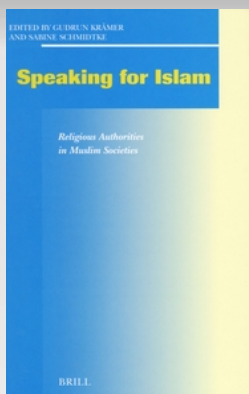
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Chapter Summary

Religious authority is an elusive concept and difficult to define. The present volume is concerned with religious authority, claiming, projecting and exerting religious authority within a given context. The status of the sunna, the collection and practices of Muhammad as a source of religious authority is less clearly defined and more controversial. The crucial importance of the Qur'an to Islam and the Islamic tradition. Indeed, Islam may be considered the scriptural study of women in Islamic scholarship narrowly defined is slowly developing. The volume has a strong focus on Muslim societies in the period from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries; one paper deals with a Sufi network of Middle United States of America and Western Europe.

Keywords: Islam; Middle Eastern muslims; Qur'an; religious authorities; sunna; women in Islamic scholarship



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