

Book Reports

1. *Rethinking Islamic Finance: Markets, Regulations and Islamic Law*

Author(s): Ayesha Bhatti and Saad Azmat.

Ayesha Bhatti is an Assistant Professor at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and completed her master's degree in Applied Statistics from the University of Oxford, UK. Ayesha has been associated with the LUMS Centre for Islamic Finance since its inception in 2015 and has served as the Director of Training and Chair of the Centre. She teaches in the area of Financial and Managerial Accounting at LUMS and has written and taught several case studies in this area as well as on Islamic finance.

Saad Azmat is an Associate Professor of Finance at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his PhD in Accounting and Finance at Monash University, Australia, and a master's degree in Economics from University of British Columbia, Canada. At LUMS he has served as the Associate Dean of Research, Director of PhD Program, and the Founding Chair of the Centre for Islamic Finance. He teaches courses in the area of Islamic Banking and Finance to undergraduate, master's and PhD students at LUMS.

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Book Report:

Islamic finance's phenomenal growth owes to the Shari'ah compliant nature of its financial instruments. Shari'ah forbids the charging of interest (*ribā*) and instead promulgates risk-sharing and trade-based modes of financing. The Islamic financial industry has been subject to both critique and admiration. Critics argue that Islamic instruments (bearing debt-based structures) differ from their conventional counterparts only in legal lexicon and not in economic impact. The admirers argue that such instruments, irrespective of wider economic implications, rigorously comply with 'juristically sound' Islamic principles.

This book aims to reconcile the above dispute. It argues that the financial impact of instruments is a consequence of the way they are priced and structured. The similarity in pricing and structures is an outcome not of the underlying Islamic financial modes, but of the competitive environment in which Islamic instruments compete. Even risk-sharing and trade-based Islamic structures, if implemented in such an environment, would have a financial impact similar to that of conventional instruments.

This book has a wider appeal for both academic and non-academic audiences. It can complement undergraduate and graduate courses as an additional reading on the intricacies of Islamic financial instruments and markets. For PhD students, it would help identify future research areas. To non-academics, it offers a deeper understanding regarding the working of the Islamic finance industry. [Prepared by Yahya Malik]

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2. Prophecy, Piety, and Profits: A Conceptual and Comparative History of Islamic Economic Thought

Author(s): Ayman Reda.

Ayman Reda is a Lecturer at the University of Michigan–Dearborn, USA. He has a PhD in Economics from Michigan State University, and specializes in the history of Islamic economic thought. His professional record includes several articles in internationally recognized journals, conference presentations, invitations to seminars, research grants, and book reviews.

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Book Report:

This book examines, in greater depth than the existing literature, the history of Islamic economic thought. It seeks to introduce Islamic views to debates surrounding critical economic concepts, such as scarcity, wealth, poverty, charity, usury, self-interest, rationality, and markets. It does so through a comparative analysis with the views of Judaic, Christian, and secular economic thought. “Prophecy” is meant to signify the theoretical dimension of religion, while “piety” represents its practical element; neither part is feasible without the other. Together, prophecy and piety inform the Islamic view of economic concepts and phenomena. This view seeks to adjust our approach to profits, both in this world and the next, and seeks to reexamine what is truly profitable and worthy of sacrifice. [Prepared by Yahya Malik]

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3. Household Debt and Economic Crises: Causes, Consequences and Remedies

Author(s): Heikki Hiilamo.

Heikki Hiilamo is a Doctor of Political Science and Philosophy. He has worked as Professor of Social Policy at the Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki, Finland since August 2013. Prior to that, he worked as a Research Professor at Kela – The Social Insurance Institution of Finland. His research areas include, among other things, the activities of tobacco companies in Finnish lawsuits and social policy, especially family policy and poverty.

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Book Report:

The recent global recession, preceded by easy access to credit, led to a household debt epidemic. This book examines the causes, consequences, and potential public policies related to debt from a social policy perspective, in which over-indebtedness is understood as a social risk. The author presents a unique conceptual and theoretical approach to the topic – one of the most pressing social issues of the modern Western world.

The trajectories of increasing household debt are studied in the contexts of the US, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, and Norway. The book also examines remedies to prevent and alleviate the over-indebtedness epidemic, creating a conceptual framework with which to analyze the causes and consequences of debt. The author argues that social policies are needed to tackle the current borrowing crisis that endangers and prevents the full participation in society of individuals with excessive debts.

Academics and students of social policy, economics and social-epidemiology will find this an indispensable and thought-provoking read. With analysis of countries across Europe and the US, policymakers, public officials, and NGOs working with household debt problems will find this a timely addition to the literature for highlighting future paths in research and policy. [Prepared by Yahya Malik]

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4. Islamic Finance: Ethical Underpinnings, Products, and Institutions

Author(s): Abul Hassan and Sabur Mollah.

Abul Hassan is a Research Scientist and Associate Professor at the Centre of Islamic Banking and Finance, King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals. Hassan earned his MSc in Financial Economics and PhD in Finance from the Durham University Business School. He has taught at Durham University, Staffordshire University, University of Brunei Darussalam, and Gloucestershire University (Markfield Institute). He has published extensively in international peer review journals. Currently, he is conducting research in the area of Islamic banking and finance.

Sabur Mollah is a Professor of Accounting and Finance at the School of Management, Swansea University. He obtained his BCOM (Honors) and MCOM (Finance) from University of Dhaka, PhD in Corporate Finance from Leeds University Business School, and Docent in Business Administration (specialization in Corporate Finance) from Stockholm Business School. He taught previously at Bournemouth University, University of Botswana, University of Dhaka, Hull University Business School, Leeds University Business School, and Stockholm Business School. He has published extensively on issues surrounding market reactions to dividend policy, asset pricing behavior, market efficiency and volatility, corporate governance in banks, Shari'ah governance, and earnings management. His research has appeared in reputable international journal like the Journal of Accounting and Economics, Journal of Corporate Finance, and Journal of Banking and Finance, etc. He has also received several medium-size external grants.

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DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-91295-0

Book Report:

Islamic finance often faces numerous challenges in a dynamic marketplace. This book aims to discuss contemporary issues and challenges in Islamic finance to inform discussions surrounding the governance system, the Islamic legal system, prudential regulations, Islamic home financing, and Islamic microfinance. Furthermore, corporate social responsibility (CSR), Islamic accounting, risk management, Basel Accord, and Shari'ah governance systems are discussed in the book. Despite the relevance of these issues in Islamic finance, only a few reference sources exist. This book will provide a guide for academics, students, and banking professionals to acquaint them with the theory and practice of Islamic finance, filling a needed gap. [Prepared by Yahya Malik]

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5. Blockchain, Fintech, and Islamic Finance: Building the Future in the New Islamic Digital Economy

Author(s): Hazik Mohamed and Hassnian Ali.

Hazik Mohamed currently works with Stellar Consulting Group Pte Ltd. He is a business strategist with substantial market research, operational management and start-up experience. With over 20 years of working experience. The first 10 years in the engineering field where he had led several successful projects and received several "Above and Beyond" recognitions for various contributions to projects and critical issues that won market share for the company. The subsequent 10 years were spent on building start-ups and business consulting, where he consults for MSMEs and MNCs on various business-related issues including market penetration, operational process optimization, capital management, strategic analysis and implementation. He has spoken extensively on blockchain-based applications in Malaysia, Pakistan, France, and Singapore. He is also an advisor to several start-ups and is Shari'ah advisor to FSAC under Pergas Investment Holdings (PIH) on key areas of economics, finance, Shari'ah and technology, including the blockchain. Professionally, he currently spends about 70% of his working hours on blockchain-based innovations, while the rest are spent on business growth strategies for start-ups and Islamic Finance Shari'ah advisory.

Hassnian Ali is a young and visionary postgraduate researcher at University Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Brunei Darussalam in the field of Islamic Banking & Finance. Versatile trilingual professional (English, Arabic, and Urdu) with research and writing experience and profound knowledge of principles and methods of Islamic commercial law and jurisprudence with the combination of Islamic banking and finance and having a good understanding of a new dynamic area of Fintech and its applications. He is one of the pioneer researchers and authors in the area of Fintech. He is doing research on the Fintech applications in Islamic finance.

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Book Report:

While creating new forms (Sharī'ah-compliant standards) to operationalize Islamic values and ethics into the current conventional economic system and banking products is crucial to sustain the Islamic economy as it is today, we also need to develop new strategies to cope with the next economic evolution. The digital revolution in financial services is under way, and digital disruption has the potential to shrink the role and relevance of today's banks, while simultaneously creating better, faster, cheaper services that will be an essential part of everyday life. This forward-looking book discusses the crucial innovation, structural and institutional development for financial technologies (fintech) in Islamic finance.

Fintech has inadvertently created new forms of financial standards by virtue of its products and services, and in doing so, offers the ability to create new ways to fully enable compliance with Islamic values in order to rebuild trust and confidence in the financial system. The potential to enhance the existing economic systems and banking products with better products that serve all customers throughout the world equally is crucial to flourish and sustain the Islamic economy. This book discusses the need to new strategies for all readers, including consumers, government agencies, and financial institutions, to cope with the digital economic evolution.

The authors explain concepts in fintech and blockchain technology and follow through with their applications, challenges, and evolving nature. The book provides insights into technology which will enable and enhance actual prescribed Islamic behaviors in modern economic transactions. Case studies highlight how to cope with modern transactional behavior with the advent of global online/mobile markets, shorter attention spans, and impersonal trade exchange. [Prepared by Yahya Malik]

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**6. Organizational Behavior Management:
An Islamic Approach**

Author(s): Seyed Mohammad Moghimi.

Seyed Mohammad Moghimi is a Professor of Management at the Department of Public Administration, University of Tehran, Iran. His most important expertise and interests include Islamic management, public administration, and entrepreneurship. His most remarkable scientific activities include 120 scientific papers in well-known journal, publishing 29 books, conducting 34 projects at national and organizational level, supervising more than 20 PhD and post-doctoral dissertations, participating in many international conferences, and representing over 30 papers in universities of Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, Greece, Malaysia, and Iran, in Persian, Arabic, and English languages. His recent publications include *Entrepreneurship Theories* (2017), *Public Budgeting* (2016), and *Fundamentals of Organization and Management* (2015).

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Book Report:

The most important resource an organization has is its staff, its human resources, and it is the task of the management to help staff to reach their full potential in order to optimize the organization's competitive

advantage. Yet human behavior is complex, and most managers neglect to explore fully the multifaceted principles – some practical, some abstract or philosophical – that are essential to understanding it.

In this book, the author examines both the everyday and the theoretical insights offered by Islamic sources for managing organizational behavior. He takes a wide-ranging approach to key organizational issues, including organizational communication, organizational leadership, conflict management, and organizational culture and ethics. Drawing upon a rich and varied corpus of Islamic sources, he provides insights into large-scale organizational issues, and he also addresses organizational and behavioral management at an individual level, exploring in depth issues such as perception, personality, and motivation. These discussions are capped by reflections on how to lead in a way responsive to the complexities he uncovers, ultimately breaking new ground by providing a modern and applicable framework founded in Islamic management principles and suitable for the requirements of international businesses.

For the wealth of findings and insights it offers within a field that remains deeply under-researched, the book is essential reading for managers and for students of management at both undergraduate and graduate levels. [Prepared by Yahya Malik]

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7. Concept and Application of Shariah for the Construction Industry: Shariah Compliance in Construction Contracts, Project Finance and Risk Management

Author(s): Khairuddin Abdul Rashid, Kiyoshi Kobayashi, Sharina Fariyah Hasan, and Masamitsu Onishi (Editors).

Khairuddin Abdul Rashid, PhD, is Professor at the Department of Quantity Surveying, Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, and Head, Procurement and Project Delivery System Research Unit, International Islamic University Malaysia. He is co-founder and co-editor of the Journal of Quantity Surveying and Construction Business and reviewer of several international refereed journals related to construction. Professor Khairuddin has authored, co-authored, edited and co-edited 14 books and more than 200 technical papers on quantity surveying, procurement, contract administration including Shari'ah-compliant and PPP/PFI.

Kiyoshi Kobayashi, MSc, is Professor at the Graduate School of Management as well as Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University. He is a renowned researcher in the fields of Infrastructure Management and Regional Science and a recipient of several awards including the Distinguished Research Awards by Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) and Fellow Awards by RSA International. He is the President of Japan Society of Civil Engineers, and serves on the editorial boards of international journals including the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is the author and co-editor of 65 books and over 430 academic reviewed papers.

Sharina Fariyah Hasan, MSc (Eng), is Assistant Professor at the Department of Quantity Surveying, Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia. She is an editorial board member of the Journal of Quantity Surveying and Construction Business. She has presented and published works on quantity surveying, pre-qualification of contractors, labor market and productivity, and Shari'ah compliance in construction. She has authored and co-authored more than 40 papers in books, book chapters, journal articles and proceedings.

Masamitsu Onishi, MSc, is Associate Professor at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University. He is interested in institutional systems related to the procurement of infrastructure services including contracting and procurement schemes particularly public-private-partnerships (PPPs) and disaster risk governance. He is a recipient of JSCE Young Researcher Award 2006 and Best Paper Award 2008. He has authored and co-authored more than 50 refereed papers and 12 books, chapters in books and proceedings.

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Book Report:

The application of Shari'ah compliance in business transactions continues to increase. The Asian financial crisis of 1997, global financial crisis of 2007-2008, Enron scandal and other reported ills besieging conventional business transactions have led to advocates of Shari'ah-compliant business transactions promoting the latter as a credible alternative. However, unlike the banking, commerce, and financial sectors, the uptake by the construction sector was sluggish due to the limited understanding of Shari'ah among the practitioners and policymakers compounded by the lack of research and publications on its application for the construction sector.

This book is intended for students, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers of the construction

industry as well as the related upstream and downstream activities. It offers basic theories, challenges current practices, and proposes innovative ideas on Shari'ah compliance and its application for the construction industry. [Prepared by Yahya Malik]

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