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Autore	Bhalloo Zahir
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Sommario/riassunto

Historical studies on the practice of Islamic law (shara) tend to focus on practice in a Sunni setting during the Mamluk or Ottoman periods. This book decenters Sunni and Mamluk and Ottoman normativity by investigating the practice of shara in a Twelver Shi'i Persian-speaking milieu, in early modern Iran between the sixteenth to twentieth centuries. Drawing on documentary evidence and narrative sources, it reconstructs who the practitioners of Islamic law were, how they authenticated, annulled, and archived legal documents, and how they intervened in the resolution of disputes over religious endowments (waqf). The study demonstrates that following Iran's conversion to Twelver Shi'ism under the Safavids, the dominance of Ul Shī'i legal theory, which conferred judicial authority on scholars recognized as Shi'i jurists (mujathids), affected both the practitioners of Islamic law and the procedures of shara court practice in Iran. Shi'i jurists in Iran, as a result, would come to exercise by the end of the nineteenth century a judicial monopoly over valid shara court practice thus laying the foundation for Ayatollah Khomeini's extension, during the Iranian revolution, of the authority of the Shi'i jurist over political affairs.
