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Nota di contenuto Preliminary Material / Meir Hatina -- Introduction / Meir Hatina --

Chapter One. Ulama between the state and the society in pre-modern Sunni Islam / Michael Winter -- Chapter Two. Al-Jabarti's attitude towards the Ulama of his time / Shmuel Moreh -- Chapter Three. Ulama and political activism in the late Ottoman Empire: The political career of eyhülislâm Mustafa Sabri Efendi (1869-1954) / Amit Bein --Chapter Four. Italian colonial rule and muslim elites in Libya: A relationship of antagonism and collaboration / Anna Baldinetti --Chapter Five, Education, politics, and the struggle for intellectual leadership: Al-Azhar between 1927 and 1945 / Rainer Brunner --Chapter Six. The iraqi afghanis and Abduhs: Debate over reform among Shilte and Sunni Ulama in interwar Iraq / Orit Bashkin --Chapter Seven. Western scholars on the role of the Ulama in adapting the ShariA to modernity: A critical review / Ron Shaham -- Chapter Eight. Ulama, tribalism and the national struggle in Morocco, 1944-1956 / Daniel Zisenwine -- Chapter Nine. Reconciling tribalism and Islam in the writings of contemporary Ulama in saudi Arabia / Meir Hatina -- Chapter Ten. Wahhabis, Sufis and Salafis in early twentieth century Damascus / David Commins -- Chapter Eleven. The clerics' betrayal? Islamists, Ulama and the polity / Meir Hatina -- Chapter

Sommario/riassunto

Twelve. Liberal critics, Ulama and the debate on Islam in the contemporary arab world / Muhammad Abu Samra -- Chapter Thirteen. In defense of Muhammad: Ulama, Dalya and the new islamic internationalism / Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen -- List of contributors / Meir Hatina -- Bibliography / Meir Hatina -- Index / Meir Hatina.

This collective volume provides an integrative historical and contemporary discussion of Sunni ulama in the Middle East in both an urban and a semi-tribal context. The various chapters reinforce a renewed interest in the position of the ulama in modern times and offer new insights as to their ideological vitality and contribution to the public discourse on moral and sociopolitical issues.