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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Background and overview -- Classical juristic theories of the caliphate : from idealism to accommodationism -- The caliphate in the colonial era -- Ali Abd al-Raziq's intellectual formation and his place among the disciples of Muhammad Abduh -- The central message -- The ruling system in the time of the prophet -- Critiques of Abd al-Raziq's position -- The implications of Abd al-Raziq's study for the debate over Islam and politics.