



AN ANALYSIS OF THE WORKS COMPILED BY IBN ABIDIN (1784-1836) AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE MUSLIM WORLD

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ABSTRACT

This study undertakes a rigorous historical, jurisprudential, and hermeneutical analysis of the contributions of Muhammad Amin Ibn Abidin (1784–1836), whose legal oeuvre—most notably Radd al-Muhtār ‘ala al-Durr al-Mukhtār—represents the apex of post-classical Hanafi scholarship. Positioned at the intersection of declining Ottoman authority, increasing colonial penetration, and internal demands for socio-legal reform, Ibn Abidin’s work offers a nuanced synthesis of classical jurisprudence and emergent socio-political exigencies. By systematizing and critically engaging with earlier Hanafi positions, he not only preserved doctrinal orthodoxy but also enhanced legal dynamism through pragmatic applications of ijtihād and the objectives of the Sharia (Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah). This paper interrogates the transformative impact of his legal reasoning on subsequent Muslim legal thought, particularly in domains such as family law, commercial ethics, and waqf governance. Further, the study situates Ibn Abidin’s methodologies within the broader discourses of Islamic legal pluralism, modernization theory, and post-colonial legal reappropriation. His contributions, when analyzed through interdisciplinary lenses—including socio-political theory, comparative law, and epistemological paradigms—reveal an intellectual legacy that not only informed the legal infrastructures of the 19th-century Muslim world but continues to shape contemporary juridical debates in diverse Islamic contexts. Ultimately, this research argues that

Introduction

The intellectual legacy of Ibn Abidin (1784-1836) represents a pivotal moment in

Islamic scholarship, significantly shaping the discourse within the Muslim world. As a prominent jurist and author, his compilations not only provided a comprehensive understanding of Islamic law but also addressed the pressing socio-economic challenges of his time. This essay seeks to analyze Ibn Abidin's works, highlighting their importance in both historical and contemporary contexts. Given the gap in the adoption of classical theories in current Islamic accounting and finance research as indicated by recent studies, such as the lack of widespread reference to classical scholars—where 90% of researchers lean towards modern theories (Mukhl Mısin et al., p. 333-348)—it becomes imperative to explore how Ibn Abidin's jurisprudential insights could offer foundational perspectives. Furthermore, with the exponential growth of Islamic finance literature primarily observed in specific regions, understanding Ibn Abidin's contributions adds depth to the discourse on Islamic financial practices today (Tijjani B et al., p. 84-101).

Ibn Abidin, a prominent Islamic scholar, was born in 1784 in Aleppo, Syria, a city that served as a significant center of learning and cultural exchange during his lifetime. His scholarly journey unfolded against a backdrop of political upheaval and transformation in the Ottoman Empire, where the interplay between tradition and reform shaped societal norms. As the empire grappled with internal challenges and Western influences, Ibn Abidin emerged as a critical voice in preserving Islamic jurisprudence while adapting to contemporary demands. His works reflect the complexities of family life and legal structures within a rapidly changing society, resonating with Beshara B. Doumanis analysis of regional disparities in family dynamics and governance during this period. This historical context underscores the significance of Ibn Abidin's contributions, as they provide insight into how ordinary people's experiences influenced the broader narratives of Islamic modernity and governance (Doumani B)(Doumani B, p. undefined).

Ibn Abidin's contributions to Islamic jurisprudence are profound, as his works serve as a bridge between traditional legal thought and the contemporary challenges faced by Muslim societies. His critical analysis and synthesis of earlier jurisprudential opinions, particularly from the Four Madhabs, exemplify a dynamic approach to legal scholarship that remains relevant. Moreover, his jurisprudential framework emphasizes the importance of Maqasid al-Shariah, which seeks to align Islamic law with the contemporary socio-cultural landscape. The necessity for modern *ijtihad*, as outlined in discussions about DNA as genealogy in (Aslati et al., p. 17-36), underlines the adaptive nature of legal interpretations derived from his works. His advocacy for a moderate understanding of Islam, rooted in the experiences of the Mutakallimin, further reaffirms the importance of applying moderation in contemporary religious practices, as noted in (Burhanuddin N et al., p. 93-93). Thus, Ibn Abidin's legacy endures, fostering robust dialogue within Islamic jurisprudence as societies evolve.

The purpose and scope of this analysis extend beyond a mere examination of Ibn Abidin's works; they aim to contextualize his contributions within the broader historical and socio-political landscape of the Muslim world during the 18th and 19th centuries. By dissecting how Ibn Abidin's legal frameworks engaged with prevailing cultural norms, the analysis seeks to illuminate the interplay between individual agency and structural forces in shaping Islamic jurisprudence. Such an investigation echoes Beshara B. Doumani's assertion that the understanding of family and community varies significantly across regions, underscoring the absence of a monolithic Muslim identity in historical narratives (Doumani

B). Moreover, recognizing the influential factors that shaped Ibn Abidin's thought allows for a richer understanding of how some narratives have been marginalized in historical discourse, aligning with the notion that absence in history can be as defining as presence (Doumani B, p. undefined). This multifaceted exploration thus aims to contribute to a more nuanced comprehension of Islamic legal thought's evolution.

The major works of Ibn Abidin, particularly his legal texts, are pivotal in understanding the evolution of Islamic jurisprudence in the 19th century. His meticulous approach to the Hanafi school of thought provided a structured framework that integrated traditional Islamic principles with contemporary socio-political realities. This adaptability is significant, as it reflects a responsiveness to the dynamic conditions of the Muslim world during his time. By engaging with the local political economies and societal norms, Ibn Abidin's writings also highlight the diverse interpretations of Islamic tenets, challenging the notion of a monolithic Muslim identity. As noted in contemporary scholarship, there is no such thing as the Muslim or Arab family type which emphasizes that Islamic thought is not static, but rather historically contingent and varied (Doumani B). Furthermore, the omissions in his works regarding certain social dynamics can also reveal much about the complexities of historical narrative construction (Doumani B, p. undefined).

In exploring the contributions of *Hashiyat Ibn Abidin*, it becomes evident that this seminal work significantly shaped Islamic jurisprudence and influenced societal norms within the Muslim world. Ibn Abidin meticulously elaborated on traditional Islamic legal theories, addressing various aspects of daily life such as commerce, thus ensuring adherence to ethical standards through his rigorous analysis of legality and public interest. He asserted that the foundations of selling, rooted in trust and honesty, were crucial for economic interactions, aligning with contemporary interpretations of jurisprudence as discussed in the context of profit sales (Muhammed HS, p. 2187-2203). Additionally, Ibn Abidin's efforts provided a critical framework for later scholars, contributing to a rich legacy that extends to the educational realms in regions like Indonesia, where Saudi-trained Islamic scholars have emerged and diversified the interpretations of Islamic law (Qurtuby SA, p. 17-44). Such dimensions highlight the enduring impact of his work on both historical and modern Islamic thought.

The significance of *Radd al-Muhtar*, authored by Ibn Abidin, extends beyond mere legal compendium to serve as a pivotal reference for contemporary Islamic law. This work showcases Ibn Abidin's adeptness in synthesizing classical Hanafi jurisprudence with the exigencies of his time, thereby providing a robust framework for modern legal discourse. His meticulous approach to addressing emerging social issues, such as premarital medical examinations, reflects an engagement with modern health imperatives while remaining anchored in Islamic principles, as discussed in (Abubakar B & Shehu B, p. 39-43). Furthermore, Ibn Abidin's exploration of the Hanafi doctrine of *siyasah* highlights the dynamic interplay between Islamic legal traditions and contemporary challenges, which is often obscured in post-colonial critiques of Islamic law, as evidenced in (Ahmad MM, p. 112-130). Thus, *Radd al-Muhtar* not only preserves the legacy of Islamic legal thought but also enhances its applicability, affirming its relevance in addressing modern societal needs.

In addition to the seminal works of Ibn Abidin, various other notable writings from the same era elucidate significant themes pertinent to the intellectual and spiritual landscapes of

the Muslim world. For instance, the legal compendiums by Ahmad ibn Hanbal emphasize the importance of adhering to the Quran and Hadith as primary sources of guidance, reflecting a growing concern for authenticity and orthodoxy in Islamic jurisprudence. Concurrently, Sufi literature, particularly the poetry of Jalal ad-Din Rumi, explores themes of divine love and mystical union, suggesting a complementary dialogue between scholarship and spirituality in the 19th century (A Ahmad). These evident contrasts and intersections illuminate the broader discourse of the period, illustrating how differing perspectives on religious authority and personal experience shaped the evolving identity of Muslim communities across regions. By juxtaposing these texts with Ibn Abidin's contributions, scholars can further appreciate the rich tapestry of thought that defined this transformational era.

Ibn Abidin's theological and jurisprudential contributions significantly influenced Islamic legal thought and practice, particularly within the Hanafi school. He adeptly reconciled traditional scholarship with contemporary issues, allowing for a nuanced application of Islamic law in a rapidly changing socio-political landscape. His seminal work, the Hashiyat Ibn Abidin, serves as both a commentary and a comprehensive guide, elucidating complex legal arguments while addressing the practical needs of the Muslim community. Through his exploration of various legal doctrines, Ibn Abidin not only preserved the foundational principles of Islamic jurisprudence but also encouraged intellectual discourse among scholars. This synthesis of classical and innovative thought catalyzed the evolution of legal reasoning, which empowered subsequent generations of jurists to navigate modern challenges effectively. Ultimately, his contributions laid the groundwork for enduring legal frameworks, fostering a dynamic relationship between Islamic law and the lived experiences of Muslims worldwide (A Ahmad).

Ibn Abidin's approach to Islamic law is characterized by a significant emphasis on the application of reason and contextual understanding in the interpretation of legal texts. His works encapsulate a nuanced balance between traditional scholarship and the exigencies of contemporary life, a theme resonant in the dynamic adaptability of Islamic jurisprudence. By critically engaging with foundational texts while addressing modern legal dilemmas, Ibn Abidin sought to provide clarity and coherence amidst the complexities of changing socio-political landscapes. This methodological framework reflects the broader discourse within Islamic scholarship, where interpretations evolve to remain relevant in the face of contemporary challenges, as highlighted in recent studies on Islamic intellectual traditions (Mohammed D Alruwaili) and their resilience against the forces of globalization (OSMANI NM). Thus, Ibn Abidin's legacy serves as a pivotal reference point for scholars and practitioners navigating the intricate pathways of Islamic legal interpretation in the modern world.

The contributions of Ibn Abidin significantly enhanced the intellectual foundation of the Hanafi school of thought, intricately weaving his interpretations into its evolving jurisprudential tapestry. His works addressed complex legal issues, offering nuanced insights that not only clarified existing Hanafi doctrine but also responded to contemporary societal challenges. For instance, Ibn Abidin's exploration of Gharar, or uncertainty in transactions, reflected a broader attempt to reconcile traditional Islamic principles with modern financial practices. This engagement prompted a reconsideration of risk in economic activities, allowing for flexibility within Hanafi jurisprudence while maintaining adherence to core

Islamic values (Al-Saati AR الساعاتي الحميد عبد الرحيم عبد, p. 3-19). Furthermore, his scholarship facilitated the dissemination of Hanafi teachings, thereby solidifying the school's prominence among Muslim communities worldwide. Ultimately, Ibn Abidins works have left an indelible mark on the Hanafi school, ensuring its continued relevance and adaptability in the modern era (Karimullah SS et al.).

The works compiled by Ibn Abidin have profoundly shaped contemporary Islamic legal practices, particularly in the realm of *ijtihad*, or independent legal reasoning. His methodologies encourage adapting classical jurisprudence to address modern socio-cultural challenges, such as the acknowledgment of DNA evidence in establishing lineage, which is crucial for protecting the rights of children born outside of marriage. Contemporary scholars emphasize that reformulating jurisprudence should not only grapple with emerging societal issues but also align with the principles of *Maqasid al-Shariah*, which aims to uphold the higher objectives of legal texts. This integration of science and *Shariah* illustrates the dynamic nature of Islamic law, highlighting the necessity of adaptive legal frameworks. Furthermore, recognizing the limitations of existing typologies in varied cultural contexts underscores the complexity of applying Ibn Abidins frameworks universally, thus necessitating a nuanced understanding that factors in local dynamics and realities (Aslati et al., p. 17-36)(Pall Z, p. 263-281).

The socio-political landscape of the Muslim world has been significantly influenced by the intricate interplay of cultural narratives and local dynamics, shaping societal structures across various regions. Within the works of Ibn Abidin, the exploration of legal frameworks and social contracts reveals the complexities of Muslim identity in the face of colonialism and modernization. The understanding of family and gender roles, as discussed in the context of Beshara B. Doumani's comparative analysis, illustrates that the Muslim family cannot be monolithically defined. Dramatic regional differences emerge, demonstrating how ordinary individuals negotiated their socio-political realities amidst changing tides (Doumani B). This negotiation is further complicated by the historical practices that have marginalized certain groups and narratives, highlighting the significance of recognizing these absences in constructing an inclusive history (Doumani B, p. undefined). The implications of these dynamics underscore the ongoing evolution of the Muslim world in response to internal and external pressures.

Ibn Abidins influential works serve as a cornerstone for modern Islamic governance by articulating a framework that harmonizes traditional Islamic jurisprudence with contemporary socio-economic realities. His legal writings, particularly in the context of *waqf* (endowment) management, underscore the necessity of adapting religious principles to ensure effective governance and communal welfare. By illustrating the critical role of *waqf* in economic development, Ibn Abidin emphasizes that proper management can significantly benefit the *ummah*, as seen in the findings from recent studies that highlight the challenges in *waqf* practices and the need for structured oversight (Choiri M et al., p. 272-272). Furthermore, his integration of economic justice and social responsibility, reminiscent of Ibn Khalduns theories, fosters a comprehensive understanding of governance that prioritizes community well-being and sustainable development (Mafrudlo AM et al., p. 43-43). Thus, Ibn Abidins works remain vital for contemporary scholars and policymakers striving to balance tradition and modernity in Islamic governance.

The works of Ibn Abidin have significantly influenced reform movements within the Muslim community, particularly through their advocacy for a balanced and moderate approach to Islamic jurisprudence. By promoting the concept of moderatism, Ibn Abidins writings resonate with the historical contributions of the Mutakallimin, who emphasized rationality and dialogue within Islamic theology. This emphasis on moderatism has encouraged a diverse understanding of Islamic law, enabling various sects, including the Khawarij and Shia, to engage in constructive discourse, as indicated by (Burhanuddin N et al., p. 93-93). Furthermore, the socio-political context of the post-Ottoman Middle East has underscored the need for reforms that reconcile traditional practices with contemporary challenges. The complexities surrounding state formation and border dynamics in the region, articulated through (Tejel J), further illustrate how Ibn Abidins works continue to inspire reformist thought, fostering a spirit of unity amidst diversity within the Muslim community.

The reception of Ibn Abidins ideas across various Muslim-majority countries illustrates the diverse interpretations and applications of his legal and theological frameworks. In Indonesia, for instance, scholars have engaged critically with Islamic texts, highlighting the nuances of leadership as articulated in Qs. al-Maidah: 51. This debate reflects a broader trend where local contexts reshape traditional understandings, resulting in unique hermeneutical approaches to legal and ethical questions (Ummam NI et al., p. 138-156). Conversely, Turkey's legal reforms, notably the Ottoman Law of Family Rights introduced in 1917, showcase a significant departure from traditional interpretations, aligning family law with modern principles of gender equality and civil rights, thereby influencing reforms in neighboring Islamic nations (Kinasih S, p. 1-6). Such varied receptions of Ibn Abidins works underscore both the resilience and adaptability of Islamic jurisprudence in responding to contemporary challenges within diverse cultural landscapes.

Conclusion

In summation, the works of Ibn Abidin serve as pivotal texts that have significantly influenced the evolution of Islamic jurisprudence in the modern Muslim world. His ability to address contemporary issues through the lens of traditional law underscores the necessity of dynamic interpretation in Islamic thought. By advocating for a reformulation of jurisprudence, as outlined in (Aslati et al., p. 17-36), Ibn Abidins contributions illuminate the urgent need for legal frameworks that are responsive to modern societal challenges. Additionally, the impact of such interpretations can be observed in the rural Salafi youth movements, which utilize new media to disseminate religious understanding, as noted in (Syarif S et al.). This confluence of tradition and innovation reflects an ongoing dialogue within the Islamic community, emphasizing that the relevance of Islamic jurisprudence is contingent upon its ability to adapt and resonate with contemporary realities. Ultimately, Ibn Abidins legacy continues to shape the discourse surrounding legal and ethical considerations in the Muslim world.

The analysis of Ibn Abidin's works reveals several key findings that illuminate his profound impact on the Muslim world. Firstly, Abidin's legal scholarship underscores the need for adaptability within Islamic jurisprudence, suggesting that interpretations must evolve to address contemporary social realities. His ability to integrate traditional Islamic principles with modern societal issues has fostered a framework that promotes social harmony, similar to principles found in the political philosophies of figures like Said Nursi, who emphasized the

holistic understanding of human beings within governance (Huringiin N et al., p. 191-200). Additionally, the layered complexity of Abidin's texts indicates his awareness of the socio-political challenges faced by Muslims during his time, thus allowing subsequent generations to navigate similar dilemmas. Ultimately, Abidin's works not only shaped legal discourse but also enriched the broader cultural and ethical landscape of the Muslim community, enabling it to address modernity while remaining firmly rooted in tradition.

Ibn Abidin's enduring legacy in the Muslim world is profoundly shaped by his comprehensive legal scholarship and his ability to navigate the complexities of Islamic jurisprudence. His seminal work, **Hashiyat Ibn Abidin**, remains integral to the study of Hanafi fiqh, influencing countless scholars and students across the globe. Through his meticulous commentary, Ibn Abidin not only elucidated traditional rulings but also addressed contemporary issues of his time, thereby bridging the gap between classical texts and modern societal needs. His emphasis on contextual reasoning within the framework of Islamic law allowed for a dynamic application that resonated with diverse communities, fostering a sense of unity amidst cultural variance. As a result, Ibn Abidin's contributions have facilitated an ongoing discourse within Islamic legal thought, encouraging a legacy that champions both tradition and adaptability in a rapidly changing world (A Ahmad).

Future studies on Islamic jurisprudence and reform must critically examine the evolving interpretations and applications of classical works, such as those compiled by Ibn Abidin. The implications of Ibn Abidin's contributions extend beyond mere legal frameworks; they invite scholars to explore the dynamic interplay between tradition and contemporary needs. In this context, the reflection on moderatism in Islamic thought, as highlighted by empirically rooted experiences of the Mutakallimin, underscores the necessity of adapting religious expressions to align with modern societal challenges (Burhanuddin N et al., p. 93-93). Moreover, understanding the historical shifts in texts like Ibrāhīm al-Ḥalabī's *Multaqā al-abḥur*, which transitioned from a fiqh text to a representation of state law, can illuminate the complexities of legal authority in contemporary Muslim societies (Kasim KOPUZ, p. 67-114). Thus, future research must not only analyze these transformations but also advocate for a jurisprudential approach that fosters both relevance and authenticity in Islamic thought.

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