



## War, Peace & International Relations in Islam: Muslim Scholars on Peace Accords with Israel

By Yitzhak Reiter

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### War, Peace & International Relations in Islam: Muslim Scholars on Peace Accords with Israel By Yitzhak Reiter

This book presents and analyzes *fatwas*—rulings of Islamic law—issued by religious sages and clerics on issues of war and peace in regard to the actual or future possibility of conducting a peace agreement between Muslim states and Israel. The analysis highlights Islamic law's adaptation to changing political realities to the modern model of international relations, the changing concept of jihad, and the current role of political *fatwas*. It deals with the *shari'a* interpretations regarding war and peace in theory and practice; the Hudaibiyya Pact of 628 between the prophet Muhammad and the Quraysh infidels; Egyptian *fatwas* from 1947 to 1979 regarding peace with Israel; the 1995 debate between the late mufti of Saudi Arabia 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Baz and the popular Islamist scholar Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi over the Oslo Accords; the Hamas hudna concept; the debate between Saudi Arabian muftis and Hezbollah sages over Israel's second war in Lebanon in 2006; and a comparative study of the agreements that were signed between the Algerian leader Abd al-Qadir and the French in the 1830s. The rulings of Islamic law cited in this book are likely to serve as a textual and intellectual basis for the public discourse on peace between Israel and the Palestinians and Arab states.

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#### Review

“The rulings of Islamic law cited in this book serve as a textual and intellectual basis for the public discourse on peace between Israel and the Palestinians and Arab states. The book is a must for every scholar and student of the Middle East as well as for Israeli and Arab statesmen who deal with the question of peace on a daily basis.” —Efraim Halevy, head of the Shasha Center for Strategic Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and former head of the Mossad, Israel’s national intelligence service

#### About the Author

**Yitzhak Reiter** teaches in the department of political science at Ashkelon Academic College and at the Conflict Studies Program of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He formerly served as the deputy advisor on Arab affairs to three Israeli Prime Ministers. He participated in a number of Track 2 diplomacy teams with Palestinians and has been a visiting scholar throughout the world. He is the author of *National Minority, Regional Majority: Palestinian Arabs versus Jews in Israel*.

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