Public Violence in Islamic Societies
Edited by Christian Lange and Maribel Fierro

June 2009
Hb • 978 0 7486 3731 7 • £60.00
256pp • 234 x 156 mm

A unique exploration of attitudes towards violence within Muslim societies in an historical context

Description
This unique exploration of the use of violence in the construction of Islamic public and private spheres contributes to the growing interest in the vital question of Muslim attitudes towards violence. Charting the historical and doctrinal background, the authors lay out a spectrum of attitudes, revisiting and challenging common assumptions about Islam as a civilization of violence. Shunning an exclusive focus on Muslim violence directed against the outside, the role of violence in the political economy of Muslim societies is emphasised. The volume illuminates political uses of violence by the Muslim state and sheds light on the historical struggle of Muslims to defend the private sphere against political authorities.

Key Features
• Includes some of the most substantive and innovative scholarship on this important topic to date
• Lays out a spectrum of attitudes towards violence
• Challenges common essentialist assumptions about Islam as a civilization of violence
• Features work from leading international scholars including Gerald Hawting, Everett Rowson, Yaacov Lev, Manuela Marín, Eric Chaumont and Robert Gleave

The Editors
Christian Lange is a Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He is author of Justice, Punishment and the Medieval Muslim Imagination (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

Maribel Fierro is Investigador Cientifico at the Instituto de Filologia/Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas in Madrid, Spain. She is author of many books, her most recent being Abd al-Rahman III: The First Cordoban Caliph (Oneworld, 2005).

Readership
Islamic Studies

Advanced students and academics in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic History.