

# Sayyids and Sharifs in Muslim Societies: The Living Links to the Prophet (New Horizons in Islamic Studies)



The global Muslim population includes a large number of lineal descendants and relatives of the Prophet Muhammad. These kinsfolk, most often known as sayyid or sharif, form a distinct social category in many Muslim societies, and their status can afford them special treatment in legal matters and in the political sphere. This book brings together an international group of renowned scholars to provide a comprehensive examination of the place of the kinsfolk of Muhammad in Muslim societies, throughout history and in a number of different local manifestations. The chapters cover: how the status and privileges of sayyids and sharifs have been discussed by religious scholars how the prophetic descent of sayyids and sharifs has functioned as a symbolic capital in different settings the lives of actual sayyids and sharifs in different times and places Providing a thorough analysis of sayyids and sharifs from the ninth century to the present day, and from the Iberian Peninsula to the Indonesian Archipelago, this book will be of great interest to scholars of Islamic studies, Middle East and Asian studies.

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