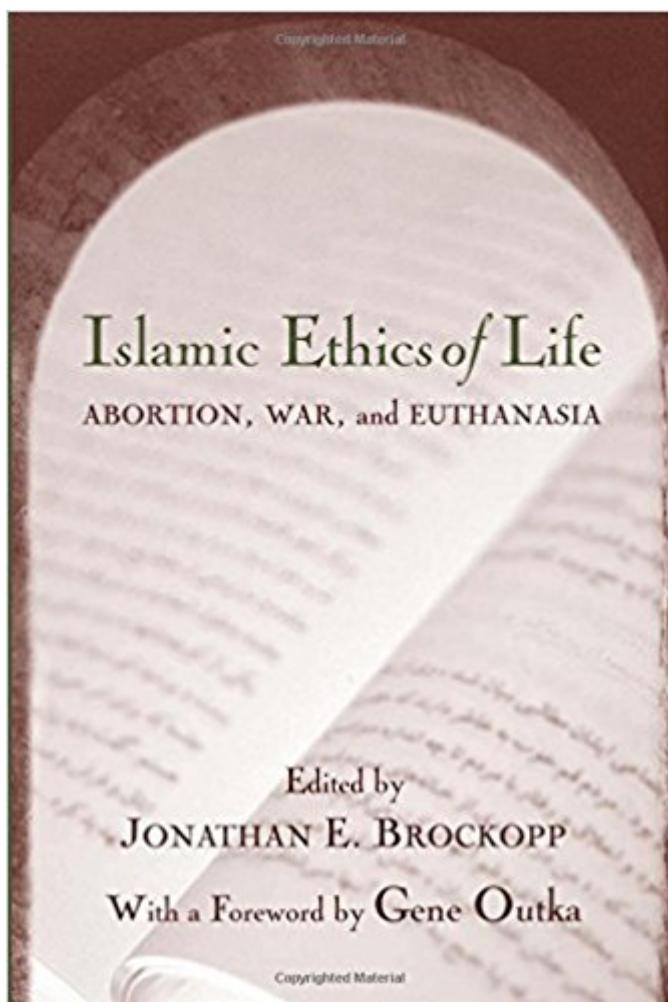


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Islamic Ethics Of Life: Abortion, War, And Euthanasia (Studies In Comparative Religion (Paperback))



Synopsis

Islamic Ethics of Life considers three of the most contentious ethical issues of our time-abortion, war, and euthanasia-from the Muslim perspective. Distinguished scholars of Islamic studies have collaborated to produce a volume that both integrates Muslim thinking into the field of applied ethics and introduces readers to an aspect of the religion long overlooked in the West. This collective effort sets forth the relationship between Islamic ethics and law, clearly revealing the complexity and richness of the Islamic tradition as well as its responsiveness to these controversial modern issues. The contributors analyze classical sources and survey the modern ethical landscape to identify guiding principles within Islamic ethical thought. Clarifying the importance of pragmatism in Islamic decision making, the contributors also offer case studies related to specialized topics, including "wrongful birth" claims, terrorist attacks, and brain death. The case studies elicit possible variations on common Muslim perspectives. The contributors situate Muslim ethics relative to Christian and secular accounts of the value of human life, exposing surprising similarities and differences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Islamic Ethics of Life makes a significant contribution to the discussion of religious ethics, not least by addressing the need for an anthology convenient for classroom use. Those who teach courses in religious ethics will find the essays a useful resource for displaying contemporary Islamic judgments regarding abortion, war, and euthanasia. Those who teach courses in Islamic Studies will similarly find the volume a useful supplement to the standards of Islamic tradition."--John Kelsay, Richard L.

Rubenstein Professor, Department of Religion, Florida State University, and author of *Islam and War: A Study in Comparative Ethics*

Jonathan E. Brockopp is an assistant professor of religion at Bard College. The holder of graduate degrees from Yale University, he has published widely in the fields of Islamic law and Islamic ethics. His most recent book, written with Jacob Neusner and Tamara Sonn, is *Judaism and Islam in Practice: A Sourcebook*. He lives in Rhinebeck, New York.

Great book!

I read the essays on abortion and war from this book recently for my seminar on Islamic law (I didn't get to the section on euthanasia). I found the two on abortion particularly fascinating--there is one that gives the historical status of the fetus in Islamic law, and then another that discusses the contemporary Muslim ethics of abortion. The latter essay includes an overview of abortion practices and policies in Islamic and Muslim countries (there's a difference! Islamic = political structure based on religion; Muslim = secular government with a Muslim majority population). I would highly recommend this book. Also, because of the variety of authors who have written the essays in different styles, you get a nice change of pace every chapter.

Islamic Ethics Of Life: Abortion, War, And Euthanasia is a collection of scholarly essays compiled by Jonathan E. Brockopp (Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Pennsylvania State University) and representing the observations of nine expert authors dealing with the critical interaction between Islamic faith and Islamic thought with reference to three specific ethical issues of life and death -- abortion, war, and euthanasia. The diverse essays are each devoted to the volatile and controversial subjects while keeping in mind both the Islamic perspective and practical issues in daily life affecting such matters. A diversely interpretive yet thoughtful and highly recommended collection, *Islamic Ethics Of Life* is a critically important contribution to personal and academic Islamic Studies collections.

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