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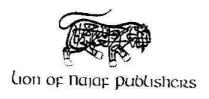
Shīra Islam Doctrinal Series No 3

War and Military Ethics in Shī'a Islam

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War and military ethics in Shi'a Islam/ Dāvūd : فيرحى، داوود، التلاس التلاقية التلا

انتشارات بنور ب IS ا

ايميل:penivis2016@gmail.com/تلفن: ﴿١٩٠١هـ ١٩٤٧٥٥/١٩٠١

- نام کتاب: War and Military Ethics in Shī'a Islam
 - ترجمهى: Blake Archer Williams
- سال و نوبت چاپ: ۱۳۹۶ اول 🌘 شمارگان: ۱۰۰۰ جلد
- قيمت: ۴۰۰۰ تومان شابک (ISBN): 1-4-97650-976-978

Abstract:

Religious beliefs have had and cont. We to exercise a decisive importance in the understanding of the nature of war and of military ethics in the list mice world. War is referred to in Islamic religious iuri, prudence (feqh) as jehād, and as such, is considered to be one of the ten pillars or branches of the religion and one of the main divisions within Islamic jurispruding. In this paper, we have attempted to provide a brief such and analysis of the meaning of jehād and its ethics as expressed in the [juridical] texts of Shī'a Islam. We have attempted to analyze two basic topics within the greater subject of jehād on the basis of (1) differentiating between Shī'a and Sonnī feqh (religious jurisprudence), and (2) differentiating between the classical positions within Shī'a feqh and the more recent ones. [This latter division is in turn further analyzed on the basis of the following sub-

divisions:] (2a) The position of Shī'a feqh with respect to the nature of $jeh\bar{a}d$ during the era of the occultation $(ghayba^t)$, and (2b) military ethics and human rights as reflected in [the teachings and ordinances of] the Shī'a magisterium 1 $(feq\bar{a}ha^t)$.

k v words: Islam; Shī'a feqh; Sonni Islam; jehād; war; derense; military ethics; the Shī'a magisterium (feqāhat).

¹ [The body of authoritative ethico-legal and doctrinal religious teachings for which there is consensus or near-consensus within Shī'a Islam, together with the body of the clerisy who have the authority (based on their knowledge and learning) to expound upon and elucidate these religious truths; feqhicity (feqāhat)].

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