

## Mechanisms of Social Dependency in the Early Islamic Empire

The success of Islamic imperialism in the period from the conquests to the Ayyubid dynasty has traditionally been explained as purely the result of military might. This book, however, adopts a bottom-up approach which puts social relationships and local power dynamics at the centre of the Islamic empire's cohesion. Its chapters draw on sources in diverse languages: not just Arabic but also Greek, Coptic, Syriac, Hebrew, and Bactrian, showing how different linguistic communities intersected and contributed to a connected yet diverse empire. They highlight how not just literary and historical texts but also physical documents and archaeological evidence should be incorporated into writing histories of the late antique and early medieval Middle East. Social institutions and relationships explored include oaths; petitions, decrees, and begging letters; and financial frameworks such as debt and taxation. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

EDMUND HAYES is a lecturer in the History of Islam at Leiden University. He leads the ERC Horizon project 'Embodied Imamate: Mapping the Development of the Early Shi'ī Community 700–900 CE'.

PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN is Professor of Arabic at Leiden University. She has held guest professorships and fellowships in Paris, Munich, Princeton, Doha, Cairo, Alexandria, and Tunis, and in 2022 was elected corresponding foreign member in the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres of the Institut de France. She has published numerous books and articles, including (edited with Jelle Bruning and Janneke H. M. de Jong) *Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean World: From Constantinople to Baghdad, 500–1000 CE* (Cambridge, 2023).



# Mechanisms of Social Dependency in the Early Islamic Empire

---

*Edited by*

EDMUND HAYES  
Leiden University

PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN  
Leiden University





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009384261](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009384261)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009384308

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions  
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons  
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009384308](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009384308) under  
a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use,  
distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing  
appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works  
without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit [https://creativecommons.org/  
licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0)

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.  
Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third parties  
directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009384308

First published 2024

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-38426-1 Hardback

Digital typeface ALPHABETUM developed by Juan-José Marcos. Freely supplied by the  
author for this book.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.