Sociology of Shiʿite Islam
Collected Essays

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Sociology of Shiʿite Islam is a comprehensive study of the development of Shiʿīsm. Its bearers first emerged as a sectarian elite, then a hierocracy and finally a theocracy. Imamate, Occultation and the theodicy of martyrdom are identified as the main components of the Shiʿīsm as a world religion. In these collected essays Arjomand has persistently developed a Weberian theoretical framework for the analysis of Shiʿīsm, from its sectarian formation in the eighth century through the establishment of the Safavid empire in the sixteenth century, to the Islamic revolution in Iran in the twentieth century. These studies highlight revolutionary impulses embedded in the belief in the advent of the hidden Imam, and the impact of Shiʿīte political ethics on the authority structure of pre-modern Iran and the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

READERSHIP:
All interested in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, Iran, sociology and history of religions, Shiʿīsm, millennialism and sociology of revolution. Social scientists interested in religion and politics, Weberian theory.

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