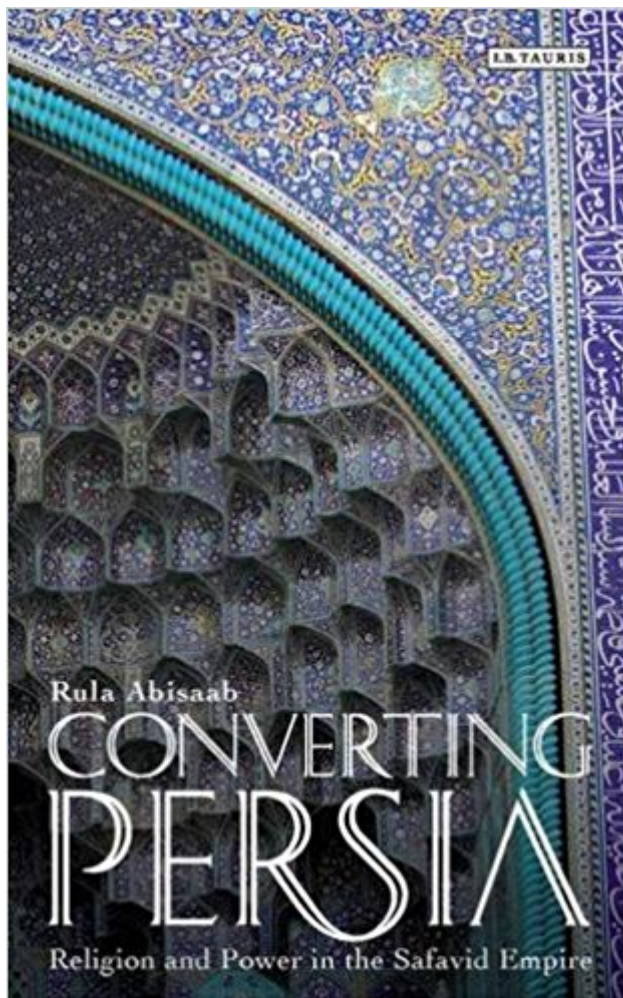


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Converting Persia



Synopsis

Converting Persia explains how Iran was to acquire one of its defining characteristics: its Shi'ism. Under the Safavids (1501-1736 CE), Persia adopted Shi'ism as its official religion. Rula Abisaab explains how and why this specific brand of Shi'ism - urban and legally-based - was brought to the region by leading Arab 'Ulama from Ottoman Syria, and changed the face of the region till this day. These émigré scholars furnished distinct sources of legitimacy for the Safavid monarchs, and an ideological defense against the Ottomans. Just as important at the time was a conscious and vivid process of Persianization both at the state level and in society. Converting Persia is vital reading for anthropologists, historians and scholars of religion, and any interested in Safavid Persia, in Shi'ism, and in the wider history of the Middle East.

Book Information

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'Rula Abisaab has provided us with a remarkable study of Safavid Iran. Her work throws new light on the interplay of religion and society and will be a crucial work for all interested in the making of modern Iran.'
—âœ Abbas Amanat, Professor of History, Yale University

Rula Jurdi Abisaab is a professor of Islamic/Middle Eastern History at the University of Akron, Ohio, USA.

It is written in a very simple style and shows what went on to bring Shi'ism to Persia. Shi'ism took its roots here and spread after the Safavids made it into a state religion.

This is a great book to read about Safavid Empire roles in converting Persia to 12 Imam shiite. The book focused on two areas. One, how Friday pray became acceptable in shiite Iran, and direction of pray was indispute. Last, the mystery of hidden Imam. The book did not focus on one historical figure, the author discussed all the Safavid Kings.

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