Islamic Political Philosophy Bibliography
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Introduction

By “political philosophy” we mean not all political thought or theory in the Islamic tradition, but the specific tradition formed by the translation of classical Greek philosophy into Arabic. The boundaries should not be drawn too sharply here (since philosophical methods and themes were also integrated into “orthodox” theology and law, and because many philosophers did see themselves as providing philosophical account of certain creedal commitments from Islamic and Jewish theology), but this entry focuses primarily on works recognizably within the “falsafa” tradition as understood in classical Islamic learning.

General Surveys of Islamic Political Philosophy


Butterworth, Charles, ed., The Political Aspects of Islamic Philosophy (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992) [see references to specific chapters below].

E. Gannagé et al. (eds), The Greek Strand in Islamic Political Thought, special issue of Mélanges de l’Université Saint-Joseph 62 (2004).


**History of Greek Philosophy and the Translation Movement**


**Readers and Anthologies of Primary Texts in Translation**


**Farabi**

**Primary Texts in Translation:**


*Alfarabi, the political writings: selected aphorisms and other texts*, Charles E. Butterworth trans. and ed. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press), including:


Secondary Literature:


Patricia Crone, “Al-Fārābī’s Imperfect Constitutions,” in Gannagé et al. (eds), The Greek Strand in Islamic Political Thought.

Dimitri Gutas, “The Meaning of madānī in al-Fārābī’s ‘Political’ Philosophy,” in Gannagé et al. (eds), The Greek Strand in Islamic Political Thought.

Gutas, “Galen’s Synopsis of Plato’s Laws and Farabi's Talkhis,” in The ancient tradition in Christian and Islamic Hellenism : studies on the transmission of Greek philosophy and sciences dedicated to H. J. Drossaart Lulofs on his ninetieth birthday

Nelly Lahoud, “Al-Fārābī: On Religion and Philosophy,” in Gannagé et al. (eds), The Greek Strand in Islamic Political Thought.


Muhsin Mahdi, Alfarabi and the Foundation of Islamic Political Philosophy (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001)


**Ibn Sina (Avicenna):**

**Primary Texts in Translation:**


**Secondary Literature:**


**Ibn Bajja (Avempace):**

**Primary Texts in Translation:**


**Secondary Literature:**


**Ibn Tufayl:**

Primary Texts in Translation:


Secondary Literature:


**Ibn Rushd (Averroës):**

Primary Texts in Translation:

Secondary Literature:


Maroun Aouad, “Does Averroes Have a Philosophy of History?” in E. Gannagé et al. (eds), The Greek Strand in Islamic Political Thought.


**The Ethics (Akhlāq) Tradition**

1.1. Miskawayh
1.2. Al-Īmām al-Rāghib
1.3. Ṭūsī

**Ibn Khaldun**