This chronology is intended to aid beginners in identifying landmarks and important dates in the history of the Shari’a. In the case of movements and historical processes, the dates should be taken as rough estimates of their beginnings and/or ends.

610 Prophet Muhammad receives the first revelation.
622 Muhammad migrates to Medina.
632 Death of Muhammad.
661–749 The Umayyad Dynasty.
680s– Scholars and early judges begin to study and specialize in Prophetic Sunna.
690s–730s Rise of the class of private legal specialists (muftis) and study circles.
750– The beginning of systematic exposition of substantive legal doctrine.
767 Death of Abu Hanifa, the eponym and main leader of the Hanafi school.
795 Death of Malik b. Anas, a leading Medinan jurist and the eponym of the Maliki school.
800 Substantive legal doctrine acquires its full-fledged form.
820 Death of Ibn Idris al-Shafi’i, the eponym and doctrinal leader of the Shafi’i school.
820–900 Compilation of Prophetic hadith.
855 Death of Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, a distinguished traditionist and eponym of the doctrinal Hanbali school.
860–900 Compilation of Prophetic hadith in canonical collections.
860–950 The formation of legal schools as doctrinal entities.
920–70 The first major expounders of a full-fledged theory of law (usul al-fiqh).
934–1055 The Buyids rule Iraq, Rayy and Fars.
939 The beginning of the Greater Occultation in Twelver-Shi‘ism.
1037 The rise of the Saljuq Empire.
1055–1157 The Saljuqs rule Iraq.
1063–92 Tenure of the Saljuq vizier Nizam al-Mulk.
1077–1307 Saljuq state of Rum.
1250–1517 The Mamluks rule Egypt.
1389–1401 Reign of the Ottoman sultan Bayazid I.
1389–1922 The Ottoman Empire.
1453 The Ottomans capture Constantinople.
1501–1732 The Safavids rule Iran.
1520–66 The reign of the Ottoman sultan Sulayman the Lawgiver.
1526– Beginning of the Mogul Empire in India.
1600 The British East India Company is chartered.
1602 The Dutch East India Company is chartered.
1757 The Battle of Plassey and acquisition of Bengal by the East India Company.
1772 Warren Hastings becomes Governor-General of India.
1779–1924 The Qajar Dynasty in Iran, consolidating its rule in 1794.
1786 Charles Cornwallis becomes Governor-General of India.
1804 The promulgation in France of the Code civil (Code Napoléon), later influential in several Muslim countries.
1805–11 Muhammad ‘Ali consolidates his grip over Egypt, eliminating the Mamluks and preparing for significant reforms.
1826 The abolition of the Janissary corps by Mahmud II.
1826 Waqfs are placed under the control of the Imperial Ministry of Endowments, Istanbul.
1826 The Straits Settlements come under the rule of the East India Company.
1828 Muhammad ‘Ali sends the first group of Egyptian (law) students to Paris. At, or around, this time the Ottomans and the Qajars do the same.
1830 The French conquer Algiers.
1830–80 Drastic weakening of the ulama class in the Ottoman Empire, Egypt and French Algeria.
1837 The proclamation of the siyaratname by Muhammad ‘Ali in Egypt.
1839 The proclamation of the Ottoman Gülhane Decree.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1839–76</td>
<td>The age of Ottoman Tanzimat.</td>
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<td>1847–69</td>
<td>First major wave of educational reforms in the Ottoman Empire.</td>
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<td>1850</td>
<td>A commercial, French-based code promulgated in the Ottoman Empire.</td>
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<td>1853–56</td>
<td>The Crimean Wars and Ottoman defeat.</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>The proclamation of the Humayun Decree.</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>The Indian Rebellion.</td>
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<td>1858</td>
<td>Promulgation in the Ottoman Empire of the Penal Code and Land Law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>French penal code enacted in Algeria.</td>
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<td>1860s</td>
<td>Egyptian legal experts begin translating French civil, commercial, penal and procedural codes into Arabic.</td>
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<td>1860–80</td>
<td>Gradual restriction of Shari’a’s application to personal status in the Ottoman Empire and Egypt.</td>
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<td>1864</td>
<td>Promulgation in the Ottoman Empire of the Law of Provincial Administration.</td>
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<td>1870–77</td>
<td>The publication of the Ottoman Majallat al-Ahkam al-‘Adliyya.</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>Loi Warnier pertaining to land promulgated in French Algeria.</td>
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<td>1874</td>
<td>The promulgation, in the Ottoman Empire, of the Law of the Shari‘a Judiciary.</td>
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<td>1874–75</td>
<td>The promulgation in Egypt of the Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Commercial Code, the Code of Maritime Commerce, the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure, and the Code of Criminal Procedure (all of which greatly influenced by French law).</td>
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<td>1875</td>
<td>The promulgation of the Indian Law Reports Act.</td>
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<td>1875</td>
<td>The establishment of the Mixed Courts in Egypt.</td>
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<td>1876</td>
<td>The establishment in Istanbul of the first modern law school.</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>Code of Civil Procedure enacted in the Ottoman Empire.</td>
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<td>1880–1937</td>
<td>Shari’a in Indonesia is restricted by the Dutch to family law, with the exception of waqf in Sumatra.</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>Code de l’indigénat enacted in French Algeria, and applied until 1927.</td>
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<td>1906</td>
<td>Iran adopts a new constitution.</td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>Code Morand promulgated in French Algeria.</td>
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<td>1917</td>
<td>Ottoman Law of Family Rights enacted.</td>
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<td>1923</td>
<td>Turkey declares itself a republic.</td>
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1924 Atatürk abolishes the caliphate.
1925–42 Rule of Reza Shah Pahlavi in Iran and the beginning of a major wave of legal reforms.
1926 Last purge of the Shariʿa in Kemalist Turkey.
1928 The birth of the Muslim Brothers’ movement in Egypt.
1929 Indian Child Marriage Restraint Act promulgated.
1931 The Act of Marriage promulgated in Iran.
1935 A new civil code in Iran.
1937 The Dutch enact new laws to regulate waqfs in Indonesia.
1945 Adoption of a constitution in Indonesia.
1947 Pakistan declares its independence.
1949 Mixed Courts abolished in Egypt.
1949 Adoption of the Objectives Resolution in Pakistan.
1949 A new civil code in Syria.
1949 Death of Hasan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brothers in Egypt.
1950–69 The presidency of Muhammad Ayyub Khan in Pakistan.
1951 A new civil code in Iraq.
1951 Law of Family Rights enacted in Jordan.
1952 Law No. 180 (abolishing family waqfs) enacted in Egypt.
1955 Law No. 462 enacted, abolishing Shariʿa courts in Egypt.
1956 The Code of Personal Status promulgated in Tunisia.
1956 The promulgation of the Constitution in Pakistan.
1958–69 The presidency of Muhammad Ayyub Khan in Pakistan.
1959 The Code of Personal Status promulgated in Iraq.
1961 Muslim Family Laws Ordinance promulgated in Pakistan.
1963–93 Azhar University expands dramatically.
1964 Adoption of a new constitution in Algeria.
1966 Sayyid Qutb, ideologue of the Muslim Brothers, executed by the Nasser regime.
1967 Family Protection Act promulgated in Iran.
1969 The Supreme Court in Egypt renamed the Supreme Constitutional Court.
1973 The adoption of a new Constitution in Pakistan.
1974 A marriage law enacted in Indonesia.
1975 The Family Protection Act amended in Iran.
1979 The Islamic Revolution in Iran; the adoption of a new Constitution.
1979 Law No. 44 (Jihan’s Law) promulgated in Egypt.
1980–96 A number of changes introduced to the criminal code in Iran.
1989 Law No. 7 enacted in Indonesia (for the unification of Shari’a courts).
1989 The Iranian Constitution amended, expanding presidential powers.
1991 Enactment of the Compilation of Islamic Law in Indonesia (Kompilasi Hukum Islam di Indonesia).
1992 Law of Personal Status (No. 20) promulgated in Yemen.
2003 Iranian Civil Code promulgated.
2003–07 A major wave of legislative enactments in occupied Iraq.