

Timur Kuran



# The Long Divergence

How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS    PRINCETON AND OXFORD

# Contents



## *Preface* ix

### PART I Introduction

- 1 The Puzzle of the Middle East's  
Economic Underdevelopment 3
- 2 Analyzing the Economic Role of Islam 25

### PART II Organizational Stagnation

- 3 Commercial Life under Islamic Rule 45
- 4 The Persistent Simplicity of  
Islamic Partnerships 63
- 5 Drawbacks of the Islamic  
Inheritance System 78
- 6 The Absence of the Corporation  
in Islamic Law 97
- 7 Barriers to the Emergence of a  
Middle Eastern Business Corporation 117
- 8 Credit Markets without Banks 143

### PART III The Makings of Underdevelopment

- 9 The Islamization of Non-Muslim  
Economic Life 169
- 10 The Ascent of the Middle East's  
Religious Minorities 189
- 11 Origins and Fiscal Impact of the Capitulations 209
- 12 Foreign Privileges as Facilitators of  
Impersonal Exchange 228
- 13 The Absence of Middle Eastern Consuls 254

PART IV Conclusions

14 Did Islam Inhibit Economic Development? 279

*Notes* 303

*References* 349

*Index* 393