

## ABSTRACT

**THESIS:** Ibn Taymiyyah: The Struggles of a Mujtahid under the Bahri Mamluk Sultans

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This study examined the context of the Medieval Islamic *qadi* Ibn Taymiyyah in 14<sup>th</sup> century Bahri Mamluk Syria and Egypt and his incarcerations and death in prison by order of Sultan Nasser al-Muhammad Qalawun for *ijtihad*. This study demonstrated Ibn Taymiyyah practiced *ijtihad*, held the rank of *mujtahid*, and incurred the wrath of the Sultan. The evidence indicates that Taymiyyah's independent reasoning held specific social, legal, and political threats to Qalawun, the Bahri Mamluk Sultan, during his third reign. The significant role Taymiyyah's *ijtihad* played in the Sultan's imprisonment calls for a review of previous scholarship emphasizing the role of jealousy by the religious elite and affection for Taymiyyah by the Sultan as significant factors in his conflicts.