CONTENTS

Preface	xi
List of Tables	xiii
Abbreviations	XV
Chapter 1. Introduction	1
The traditional theological and legal approaches to Sunnī	
Islam	2
Sunnī <i>hadīth</i> Literature: its nature and utility for this	
project	9
Methodology	14
Conclusion	21

PART ONE

THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONCEPTUAL AND HISTORICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR INQUIRY

25
- 26
40
61
63
64
67
73
86

CONTENTS

Phase 5: The age of specialization	
(c. 400-480/1009-1087)	9
Phase 6: Transition and the loss of the East	
(c. 480–600/1087–1203)	10
Phase 7: The triumph of Syria (c. 600–720/1203–1320)	10
Chapter 4. Identification and Analysis of the Master Sunnī	
hadīth Critics	11
Sources	11
Analysis: Three periods and seven generations of Sunni <i>hadīth</i> critics	12
The origins of Sunni hadith criticism: An examination of	
the first two generations of primary critics	12
What about al-Shāfi'ī?	15
Conclusion	13
Chapter 5. The Generation of Ibn Sa ^c d, Ibn Ma ^c īn, and Ibn	
Hanbal: A Prosopographical Study	15
A prosopographical panorama of the first half of the	
third/ninth century	15
The mihna and its impact upon Sunni hadīth scholarship	19
Biographical sketches of Ibn Sa'd, Ibn Ma'in, and Ibn	
Hanbal and their primary transmitter-pupils	20
Conclusion	21

PART TWO

THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF *HADĪTH*-SCHOLAR SUNNĪ ISLAM: *ŞAḤĀBA*, *ḤADĪTH*-TRANSMITTER CRITICISM, AND HISTORY

Chapter 6. The sahāba in Classical Muslim Theory and	
Practice	221
The problem: The intra-sahāba conflicts of	
11-40/632-661	226
Two minority solutions: The Imāmī Shīća and	
Zaydiyya/Bagdhādī Mu'tazila	237
Sunnī solutions	255
Conclusion	282

viii

CONTENTS

Chapter 7. A Comparative Study of the Methods of	
hadith-transmitter Criticism of Ibn Sa'd, Ibn Ma'in, and	
Ibn Hanbal	287
Ibn Sa'd: Grades	290
Ibn Ma'in: Grades in al-Dūrī's Tārīkh	298
Ibn Hanbal: Grades in the 'Ilal of 'Abdullāh b. Ahmad	302
Reliable and unreliable transmitters in the eyes of Ibn	
Sa'd, Ibn Ma'īn, and Ibn Ḥanbal: A comparative	
study	308
Sectarian labels: Do they matter?	320
Conclusion	323
	01
Chapter 8. The Sunnī Historical Vision of the First Two	
Centuries of <i>hadīth</i> Transmission	327
Before hadīth: Sahāba who died 11-40/632-660	33
Foundations: Sahāba and senior $t\bar{a}bi^2\bar{u}n$ who died	
40-80/660-699 and their pupils who lived prior to	
120/738	332
The first compilers: The generation who died	
120-150/738-767	341
The demise of Medina and the rise of Iraq: The	0.11
generation who died 150–180/767–796	352
The refinement of <i>hadīth</i> compilation and criticism:	
The generation who died 180–220/796–835	358
Conclusion	369
	000
Chapter 9. Conclusion	371
	0
Appendix A: Other Critics	377
Appendix B: Ibn Sa'd's Most Reliable Transmitters	380
Appendix C: Ibn Ma'īn's Liars and Other Disgraceful	
Transmitters	382
Works Cited	385
Index of Proper Names	393
General Index	419