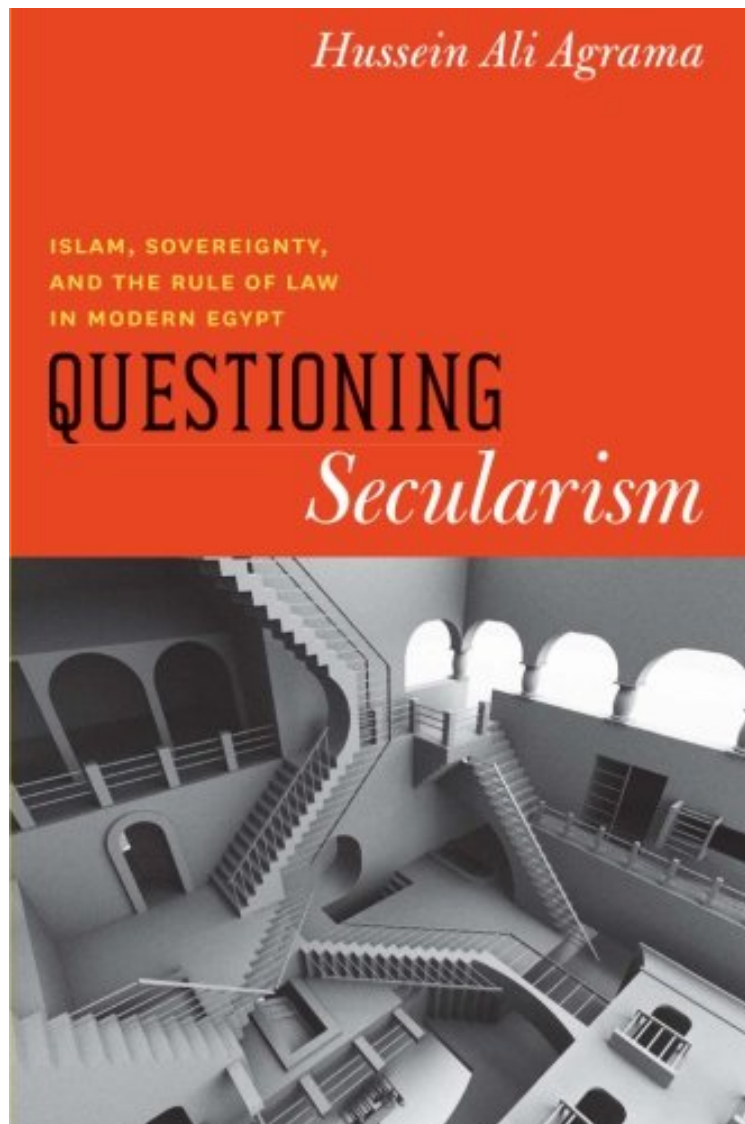


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Questioning Secularism: Islam, Sovereignty, and the Rule of Law in Modern Egypt (Chicago Studies in Practices of Meaning)

Hussein Ali Agrama

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The central question of the Arab Springwhat democracies should look like in the deeply religious countries of the Middle Easthas developed into a vigorous debate over these nations secular identities. But what, exactly, is secularism? What has the West's long familiarity with it inevitably obscured? In *Questioning Secularism*, Hussein Ali Agrama tackles these questions. Focusing on the fatwa councils and family law courts of Egypt just prior to the revolution, he delves deeply into the meaning of secularism itself and the ambiguities that lie at its heart.

At a time when Egypt is consumed with debates about the role of Islam in the constitution and the role of the courts, Agrama's book offers unique and fascinating insight into the actual operation of Islamic laws in Egyptian society. . . . Simply fascinating.