

We use cookies to enhance your experience on our website. By clicking 'continue' or by continuing to use our website, you are agreeing to our use of cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time.

Continue



[ABOUT](#) [WHAT'S NEW](#)

[SUBSCRIBER SERVICES](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [HELP](#)

[BROWSE CONTENTS](#) [HOW TO SUBSCRIBE](#) [FREE TRIALS](#) [GUIDED TOUR](#) [FAQS](#)

PRINT EMAIL CITE

[Previous Result](#) [Results](#) [Look It Up](#) [Highlight On / Off](#) [Next Result](#)

Hanbali School of Law

Source: *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam*

Hanbali School of Law

Islamic school of legal thought (madhhab) whose origins are attributed to Ahmad ibn Hanbal in ninth-century Baghdad. The official school in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with many adherents in Palestine, Syria, and Iraq. Recognizes as sources of law: the *Quran*, hadith, fatwas of Muhammad 's Companions, sayings of a single Companion, traditions with weaker chains of transmission or lacking the name of a transmitter in the chain, and reasoning by analogy (qiyas) when absolutely necessary. Encourages the practice of independent reasoning (ijtihād) through study of the *Quran* and hadith. Rejects taqlid, or blind adherence to the opinions of other scholars, and advocates a literal interpretation of textual sources. Ritualistically, the Hanbali school is the most conservative of the Sunni law schools, but it is the most liberal in most commercial matters.

Related Content

- [Ijtihād](#)
- [Law and Society](#)
- [The Poverty of Fanaticism \(Primary Source\)](#)
- [Qatar](#)
- [Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Taqlid](#)

[Sign up to receive email alerts from Oxford Islamic Studies Online](#)

PRINT EMAIL CITE

[Previous Result](#) [Results](#) [Look It Up](#) [Highlight On / Off](#) [Next Result](#)

