Contents

| Acknowledgments Introduction | | page xi | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|--|
| | | 1 | |
| | A Brief Glimpse into Nishapur | 5 | |
| | Al-Juwaynī: Between Certainty and Continuity | 9 | |
| | Al-Juwaynī and Themes in Islamic Studies | 11 | |
| | Beyond Themes | 24 | |
| | The Scope of the Book | 26 | |
| PAF | RT I HISTORICAL BACKGROUND | 33 | |
| 1 | Politics, Patronage, and Scholarship in Nishapur | 35 | |
| | Al-Juwaynī's Time and His Scholarship | 36 | |
| | Nishapur: A City Divided | 39 | |
| | The Fitna in Nishapur: Who Was to Blame? | 48 | |
| | Conclusion | 51 | |
| 2 | Al-Juwaynī: Life of a Scholar | 53 | |
| | Al-Juwaynī: Early Life and Education | 53 | |
| | Leaving Nishapur and Life in the Hejaz | 57 | |
| | Al-Juwaynī's Return to Nishapur | 60 | |
| | Teaching at the Nizāmiyya | 65 | |
| | Death | 75 | |
| | Conclusion | 76 | |

| PAI | RT II EPISTEMOLOGY | 77 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 3 | Intellectual Fissures: The Ash'arīs and the | |
| | Muʻtazila | 79 |
| | The Mu'tazilī School in Nishapur | 80 |
| | Mu'tazilī Epistemology and Its Legal Consequences | 84 |
| | Ash'arī Epistemology and Its Legal Consequences | 96 |
| | Conclusion | 107 |
| 4 | The Epistemology of al-Juwaynī | 109 |
| | Al-Juwaynī's Epistemology in the Irshād and the | |
| | Shāmil | 110 |
| | Al-Juwaynī's Epistemology in the Burhān | 118 |
| | Implications of al-Juwaynī's Epistemology for Law | 128 |
| | Epistemology beyond the Self Conclusion | 130 |
| | Conclusion | 131 |
| PART III LEGAL THEORY | | 133 |
| 5 | Certainty in Legal Sources: Hadīth | |
| | Legal Thought at the Time of al-Juwaynī | 135 |
| | Al-Juwaynī and Reports (Akhbār) | 137 145 |
| | Responding to His Predecessors and Establishing | 143 |
| | His Own Criteria | 147 |
| | The Reception of al-Juwaynī's Arguments on Reports | 156 |
| | Al-Juwaynī on Unitary Reports (Akhbār Āḥād) | 159 |
| | Conclusion | 162 |
| 6 | Certainty in Legal Sources: Ijmā' | 163 |
| | The Roots of Ijmā' | 164 |
| | Early Defenses of Ijmā' | 166 |
| | A Note on Custom | 170 |
| | Al-Juwaynī on Ijmā' | 171 |
| | The Reception of al-Juwaynī's Notion of Ijmā' | 179 |
| | Two Cases of Custom: Mutawātir Ḥadīth and Ijmā' Conclusion | 181 |
| 7 | | 183 |
| , | The Rise of Legal Uncertainty: Qiyās al-Ma'nā | 185 |
| | Qiyās and the 'Illa: Preliminary Investigations | 186 |
| | Qiyās: Definition and Defense Types of Qiyās and Francisca de (7) | 188 |
| | Types of Qiyās and Extracting the 'Illa and Ma'nā Conclusion | 195 |
| | | 207 |

Contents

| 8 | Coping with Legal Uncertainty: Qiyās al-Shabah | 209 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| | Qiyās al-Shabah: A Debated Source | 209 |
| | Qiyās al-Shabah According to al-Juwaynī | 213 |
| | Maṣlaḥa in Qiyās | 216 |
| | The Hierarchy within Qiyās | 223 |
| | Regulating Variance: The Role of the Mujtahid | 227 |
| | Conclusion | 231 |
| PART IV POLITICAL THOUGHT | | 233 |
| 9 | The Search for Continuity: Al-Juwaynī's Political | |
| | Thought | 235 |
| | Islamic Political Thought: An Overview | 236 |
| | The Necessity of the Imamate: Its Justification and | |
| | Purpose | 243 |
| | The Selection of the Imam | 244 |
| | The Qualifications of the Imam | 247 |
| | The Purpose of the Imamate | 250 |
| | Envisioning the Absence of the Imam | 252 |
| | Conclusion | 254 |
| 10 | Continuity, Custom, and Applied Epistemology | |
| | in al-Juwaynī's Political Thought | 256 |
| | Living without Rulers: The Rise of the 'Ulama' | 257 |
| | The Loss of All 'Ulamā' | 262 |
| | The Continuity of Legal Guidance | 264 |
| | The Loss of the Sharī'a | 270 |
| | The Sharī'a and Custom as Governance | 273 |
| | Conclusion | 282 |
| Conclusion | | 284 |
| | Expanding Methodological Approaches within the | |
| | Academic Study of Islam | 286 |
| | Concluding Remarks | 288 |
| Bibliography | | 291 |
| Inde | ndex | |
| | | 307 |