



A JURISPRUDENTIAL REVIEW OF THE CONTROVERSIES ON THE NATURE OF
ISLAMIC LAW

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined and discussed the sundry controversies surrounding the nature, sources and interpretations of Islamic law. The study was engendered by the fact that differences in views and attitudes to these variables have contributed in no mean way to political and religious unrests in many parts of the world today especially in Africa and the Middle East where Islam has much stronghold. This paper considered it expedient to engage in the study so as to enhance the inevitable development of democracy, rather than theocracy, in enclaves that regard themselves as utterly Islamic in spite of their multi-culturalism and religious pluralism. Discovering that many principles taken as immutable and sacrosanct are not after all eternal and unchangeable, the paper recommended legal reform, avoidance of fundamentalism and fanaticism, religious dialogue, and patriotic sense, among other factors, as the panacea. The methodology used is jurisprudential, hermeneutical, and phenomenological.

Keywords: Islamic Law, Sharia, Jurisprudence, Legal Interpretations
