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From Expansion to Contraction and Beyond: Zayn Al-Dīn Al-'Irāqī's *Alfiyya* and its Relation to Ibn Al-Şalāh's *Muqaddima*¹

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Abstract

This study reviews the work titled *Alfiyya* by Zayn al-Dīn al-'Irāqī, a Mamluk scholar from the fourteenth century, in the context of the centuries-old hadith intellectual tradition. It is divided into several sections dealing with the socio-historical context in which the *Alfiyya* appeared, the canonical text *Muqaddima* which preceded it, and also the intellectual trends which contributed to its popularization in subsequent centuries. A close reading of selected sections of *Alfiyya* attempts to show that its author was dedicated to the preservation of knowledge, but also to its adaptation to new readers and their tastes by changing its form and gradually reshaping its content. Finally, the study underscores the significance of the appearance of different copies of *Alfiyya* in the Ottoman Bosnian context.

Keywords

Ibn al-Şalāh | Zayn al-Dīn al-'Irāqī | *mustalaḥ al-ḥadīth* | commentarial tradition | Mamluk period | Ottoman period | Ottoman Bosnia

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