

## **Abstracts of Articles (English)**

### **Section 1: Public Law**

#### **Mohammad Hashim Kamali: Constitutionalism in Islamic Countries: A Contemporary Perspective of Islamic Law**

This article is presented in four sections, beginning with a brief characterisation of Islamic constitutional law, and its under-developed status as compared with other branches of Islamic law. The discussion proceeds to highlight salient differences between the Islamic and western approaches to constitutional law. This is followed by a brief discussion of Islam and secularism. Section two provides a panoramic view of Islamic countries in general and their constitutions with special reference to the role and place of Islam, or that of a state religion in the constitution. Section three, the largest in the chapter, consists of a general characterisation of the Islamic system of rule under a number of sub-headings. The first of these characterises government in Islam as a trust (amanah); it is also a limited as opposed to a totalitarian government; that it is a qualified democracy; and that the Islamic government is characteristically civilian, not a theocracy. The chapter also reviews major trends and commonalities in the Sunni and Shia political thoughts, and then a conclusion.