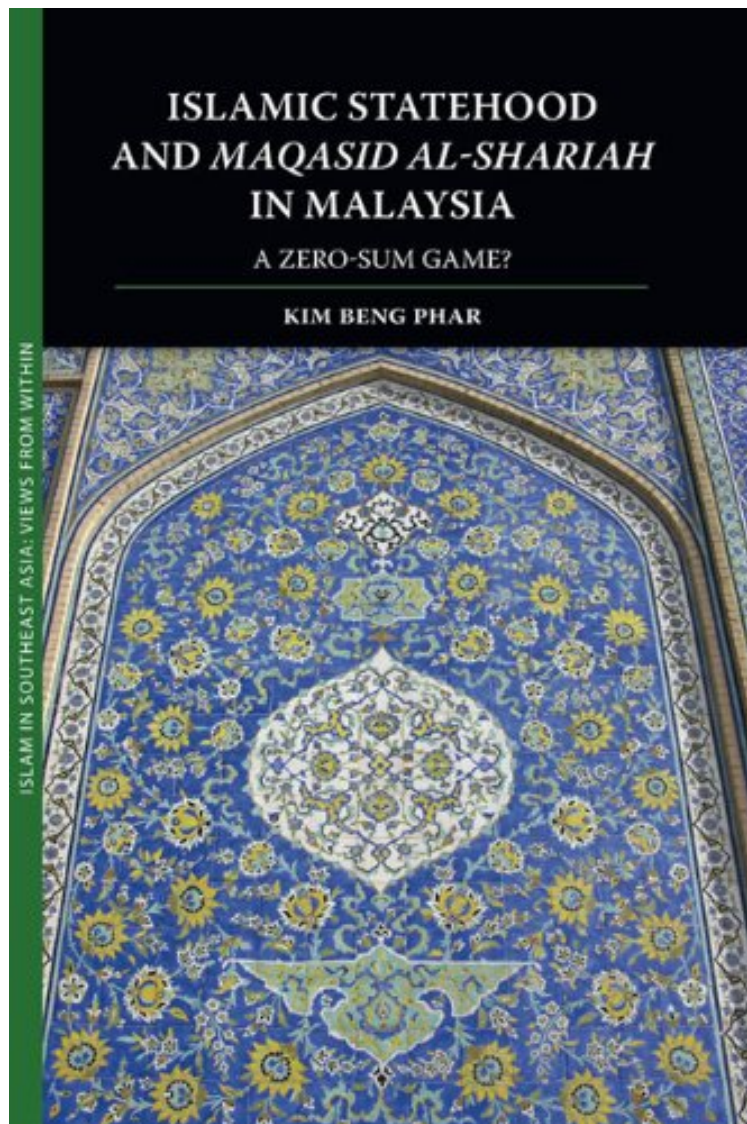


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Islamic Statehood and Maqasid al-Shariah in Malaysia: A Zero-Sum Game? (Islam in Southeast Asia: Views from Within)

Beng Phar Kim

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Beng Phar Kim : Islamic Statehood and Maqasid al-Shariah in Malaysia: A Zero-Sum Game? (Islam in Southeast Asia: Views from Within) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islamic Statehood and Maqasid al-Shariah in Malaysia: A Zero-Sum Game? (Islam in Southeast Asia:

Views from Within):

Debates on the establishment of an Islamic state in Malaysia generally occur across partisan divides, promoting a reductionist version of Islam as a force to punish and police Muslims' day-to-day behavior. The process takes place without regard for the essential concept of Islamic jurisprudence, *maqasid al-Shariah*, which can be literally translated as "the objectives of Islamic law." Islamic jurisprudence, the author explains, is dynamic, subject to constant interpretation that allows the issue of Islamic statehood to be debated along ethical, political, and even circumstantial lines.

From the Inside Flap Kim Beng Phar analyzes the polarized structure of Islamic institutions in Malaysia, arguing that it is important for those in power to understand the broad outlines of the objectives of shariah before trying to move on to specifics.--Kim Beng Phar is a visiting scholar at the Organization of Asian Studies at Waseda University in Tokyo. He has taught at Harvard University and the University of Hong Kong About the Author Kim Beng Phar analyzes the polarized structure of Islamic institutions in Malaysia, "where each party tries to out-Islamize the other with bold Islamic plans, symbols, and rhetoric, which in turn lend themselves to callous application." He argues that it is important for those in power to understand the broad outlines of the objectives of shariah before trying to move on to specifics.