

Christopher Melchert (University of Oxford), “Ibn al-Mubarak’s *Kitab al-Jihad*”

The *Kitāb al-Jihād* of ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Mubārak (d. Hit, 181/797) is widely reputed to be the earliest extant book about *jihād*. Actually, as with his other extant works *al-Zuhd* and *al-Musnad*, it appears that Ibn al-Mubārak did not assemble it himself but rather a disciple assembled it from notes of his dictation. It would be as accurate to call it ‘the book of martyrdom’ as ‘the book of holy warfare’. Some items connect *jihād* to other forms of renunciation, while others are not connected at all to *jihād*. The predominant qur’anic word for the holy war is *qitāl*, but it is predominantly *jihād* or *siyar* in the legal tradition. The renunciant tradition is probably in part responsible for this shift.