



BOOK REVIEW

THE ACCOUNTING OF ZAKĀT AL-MAL IN SAUDI ARABIA

by Abdullah A. Al Akkas. Al-Homaidhi Press, Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 2021, ISBN 9786030388868

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Early in the book, the author states his approach in drafting the book by specifying his sources in writing it. The translations and definitions provided add to our knowledge. For example, the author uses the term *zakātability*, which is an added terminology to *zakāt* literature, in my opinion.

Each chapter starts with learning objectives and ends with questions and exercises that can support the instructor in ensuring student learning. The first chapter is introductory yet valuable. The author provides a context for *zakāt*. Non-Muslims especially will find the introductory chapter very useful for comprehending subsequent chapters. The glossary is a significant contribution to the book. The author has also used tables effectively. He differentiates between *zakāt* and other terms such as tax, charity, and *Zakāt Al-Fitr* and this enlightens the reader. Tables (1-1), (1-2), (1-3), and (1-4) in the book portray similarities as well as differences in detail.

Chapter 2 is dedicated mainly to *Zakāt al-Mal*. Its requirements, specifications, rules, and conditions are explored in this chapter. The author explains concepts using diagrams to simplify conditions for readers. For example, the Figures 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, and 2-5 in the book are very profound in showing how the condition of “*Nisab*” is met for *zakāt* calculation. The author has addressed critical topics in *zakāt* that a layman needs to know to calculate and pay it on time correctly. Such topics are supported by proper *Fatwas* under the subtitles: “Factors Affecting *Zakāt al-Mal*”; “Exchanging or Replacing the Wealth”; “The Effect of Debt; Including Tax in the *Zakāt*”; “The *Zakāt* on Unlawful Wealth; Duplication of the *Zakāt*”; and “*Zakāt* Evasion.”

Zakāt on commercial wealth is discussed at great length in Chapter 3. The conversion of *zakāt* rate is interesting, especially as the book will be read widely in countries using the Gregorian calendar. The author states, “the *zakāt* rate for the Gregorian Year (السنة الميلادية) will be: $2.5\% \times 365 = 2.577\%$ ”. The examples in Chapter 3 are constructive. I truly admire the author's use of various colors in each signal example.

Chapter 4 is related to the previous chapter by focusing on the local requirements in Saudi Arabia for calculating *zakāt* on commercial wealth. Chapter 4 relates some history of the *zakāt* system in Saudi Arabia with dates and related Royal Decrees. This chapter provides a lengthy discussion with examples on General Authority for *Zakāt* and Tax (GAZT)¹ rules issued on 28/02/1441 (08\10\2019) to calculate the *zakāt*. Detailing the “Objections” and the “Procedure for Appeals” in Saudi Arabia. This will benefit readers who are unaware of the *zakāt* system in Saudi Arabia. The author has included the most recent updated GAZT implemented procedure. The diagrams are straightforward to follow. Moreover, the emphasis of Chapter 5, which is on *zakāt* accounting, gives a framework for calculating *zakāt* with examples and incorporation of “the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants (SOCPA) issued on 13/09/1420 (21/12/1999).”

Chapter 6 explores *zakāt* on monetary wealth in detail. As in Chapter 4, the author includes rich illustrations.

He includes a framework for calculating *zakāt* supported with diagrams and numerical examples. The author concludes with *zakāt* on livestock, cattle, or *al-Anaam* (الانعام) as they are *zakāt*-able-non-commercial-wealth.

The main advantage of the book is that it is dedicated to *zakāt*. Some contemporary books on *zakāt* in Saudi Arabia discuss taxation in addition to *zakāt* in a single book, for example, الهويميل [Alhowaimel] (1437 H).

Throughout the book, the author explains concepts using formats and then applies them in exercises. Such a method should make the book suitable for readers' purposes, whether for students or others wanting to learn about *zakāt* in general and the *zakāt* system in Saudi Arabia.

This book, however, can be improved in future editions. A solution manual for the exercises listed at the end should enhance its value. Besides that, the author may consider using the term “long-term tangible assets” instead of fixed assets. The author could also clarify that growth exists in an item that is subject to *zakāt* while being held, and there is no need to sell it and subject the growth to *zakāt*. (see

السلطان [AlSultan], 1997: 85-98). In other words, selling it is proof of such growth but not its cause.

The author may want to look at نور [Noor] (1441/2020) to see whether some adapted graphics can be used in future editions of the book: For the *zakāt* rate, its insignificance can be vividly portrayed in a graph similar to Figure 1².

FIGURE 1



ENDNOTES

1. Currently known as the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZTCA)
<https://zatca.gov.sa/en/AboutUs/Pages/AboutZATCA.aspx>
2. <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DCy9yPyVoAAfkzQ.jpg>

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Translation:

AlSultan, S.M. (1997). *Zakat: Rules and Applications*. Saudi Accounting Association, Saudi Arabia.

الهويميل، سعد بن محمد. (1437 H). *المحاسبة الضريبية والزكوية*. مركز البحوث، معهد الإدارة، الرياض، المملكة العربية السعودية.

Translation:

AlHowaimel, S.M. (1437 H). *Zakat and Taxation*. Research Center. Institution for Public Administration. Saudi Arabia.

نور، علي. (1441 H). *فقه التقدير في حساب الزكاة: دراسة تأصيلية تطبيقية لمنهجية التحري والتقريب في زكاة الشركات المساهمة*. الهيئة العامة للزكاة والدخل، الرياض، المملكة العربية السعودية.

Translation:²

Nour, A. (1441 H). *Estimation in Calculating Zakat: A Study in the fundamentals of Zakat and Its Application in Determining and Collecting Zakat for Corporations*. Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZTCA). Saudi Arabia.