Contents

Introduction: Was Benazir Bhutto the First?	1
PART I Queens and Courtesans	
1 How Does One Say 'Queen' in Islam?	9
2 The Caliph and the Queen	26
3 The jawari or Revolution in the Harem	37
4 Khayzuran: Courtesan or Head of State?	51
PART II Sovereignty in Islam	
5 The Criteria of Sovereignty in Islam	71
6 Fifteen Queens	88
PART III The Arab Queens	
7 The Shi'ite Dynasty of Yemen	115
8 The Little Queens of Sheba	139
9 The Lady of Cairo	159
Conclusion: The Medina Democracy	179
Notes	190
Index	220