

## « Historical Memory and Imagined Communities: Modern Ibadi Writings on Kharijism »

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Ibadis are nearly universally defined as “moderate Khawarij” or the only surviving sect of Kharijism, but contemporary Ibadis deny that they are Khawarij at all, although they do not deny their sympathy with certain Kharijite perspectives or that their sect emerged from the same pivotal historical events that produced the Khawarij. This paper looks at a number of Ibadi writings on Kharijism from the early 19th to the early 21st century and finds that while it was not controversial to identify the Ibadis as a Kharijite group in the early 19th century, the movement toward pan-Islamic identity and rapprochement with Sunni Islam that began in the late 19th century led Ibadis to adamantly reject identification with the Khawarij, although they continued to admire and identify with the people of al-Nahrawan.