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## ABSTRACT

This research aims at investigating the most prominent aspects of *usūlī* renewal in Imām Al-Shātibī's thought. This is done through scrutinizing his *usūlī* legacy represented by his book: "*Al-Muwafaqāt*". The study presents the most important *usūlī* principles laid down by Al-Shātibī, which shows his *usūlī* perspective and determines the general framework for the nature of his *usūlī* research, approach and method. Furthermore, the study discusses some basic *usūlī* issues such as the objectives of *Al-Sharī'ah*, his standing from the indisputable nature of *usūlī* foundations, and some logical subjects. Moreover, the study analyzes the methodological instruments used by Al-Shātibī in his *usūlī* research. This part represents the methodological aspects of the study. The study addresses the issues of induction, proving the fallacy of the opponent, and the philosophical reasoning. This part represents his intellectual tools. However, as far as *naqlī* aspect is concerned, the study discusses some issues pertaining to the holy Qur'ān, *Al-Sunnah* and Arabic language and how to utilize them in an *usūlī* research. In addition, the study traces the most important methodological principles and styles as well as the *usūlī* reasoning adopted by Al-Shātibī in his *usūlī* writings. As far as the *usūlī* content is concerned, the study presents Al-Shātibī's opinions on the most important issues in the science of *Usul Al-Fiqh* particularly the issue of rulings, methods of extraction and *al-ijtihād*. This represents the intellectual aspects of Al-Shātibī's thought. The researcher observes that the *usūlī* work of Al-Shātibī has been built upon two important pillars: first pillar is an analytical and critical review of the *u usūlī* materials found in various *usūlī* books. This was done on two levels: first level includes the *usūlī* content which is represented in the most important *usūlī* issues raised and discussed by Al-Shātibī as well as his legislative outcome that represents his own understanding and opinions. The second level includes the tools of *usūlī* reasoning in the *usūlī* materials and mechanisms, different ways of thinking and *usūlī* styles of proving. The second pillar is establishing new and unique *usūlī* materials in terms of its method, content and outcome to become an alternative or equivalent in the studies of *Usul Al-Fiqh*. Through these two pillars, Al-Shātibī presented his scientific project and his new *usūlī* system. This study attempts to identify the structure of these two pillars, which represent the methodological and *usūlī* intellectual aspects of Al-Shātibī, and their contents.

**APPROVAL PAGE**  
**(For Ph.D)**

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**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. Other sources are acknowledged by footnotes giving explicit references and a biography is appended.

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