Dar al-suhl
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DAR AL-ŠULH. According to the Shafi'i school of law there exists, apart from the territory of Islam (dār al-‘Islām) and the territory of war (dār al-ḥarb), a third category called territory of treaty (dār al-šulh, also called dār al-‘āhd or dār al-muwāda‘a‘ah). This is territory whose inhabitants have concluded an armistice with a Muslim government on the condition that they retain possession of their lands and pay in exchange a certain amount of money or goods to be levied on the land. The other madhhabs (schools of law) hold that this kind of territory is either dār ‘Islām or dār ḥarb, depending on whether sovereignty belongs to the Muslims or not. However, within the Ḥanafi madhhab, Muhammad al-Shaybānī (d. 804) also accepted the existence of territory of truce (dār al-muwāda‘a‘ah) as a separate category. On the strength of this view, the Ottoman Empire used the concept in its foreign policy. Countries with whom the sultan had concluded a truce were called territories of truce. They could not be attacked, and their inhabitants could not be enslaved or killed. In some modern writings that present the jihad doctrine as Muslim international law, dār al-šulh is equated with the territory of friendly nations.

[See also Dār al-Ḥarb; Dār al-‘Islām; Jihād.]

BIBLIOGRAPHY
