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Edited by

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PREFACE

In April 1977, an International Conference on Islam in South, Southeast and East Asia was held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A substantial part of the papers presented to that Conference are being published in two volumes: the present one, which includes articles on Islam in the Indo-Pakistani subcontinent, Afghanistan and Nepal; a second volume, edited by R. Israeli and A.H. Johns, which includes material on Indonesia and China. While the articles presented are disparate in approach and treat Islamic history and civilization in South Asia in both mediaeval and modern times, they all address themselves to the peculiar problems facing Islamic minorities in a peripheral area of the Muslim world.

It is the pleasant duty of the editor to record his gratitude to the institutions and individuals who contributed to the organization of the Conference and publication of the Proceedings. The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, which organized the Conference, has also borne the publication expenses. The Jerusalem Van Leer Institute hosted the Conference in its sumptuous and centrally located building in Jerusalem. Gratitude is due Professor H.Z. Schiffrin, Director of the Truman Institute, for his readily available help and wise counsel; Dr R. Israeli and Dr Y. Shichor, who bore the administrative burden of organizing the Conference; Mr R. Amitai and Ms Y. Cohen, who assisted me in preparation of the index; and Dr A. Altman for improving the English style of the volume. Above all, I am deeply indebted to Norma Schneider, Director of Publications of the Truman Institute, for her devoted, efficient and highly professional work on this book.

Yohanan Friedmann

Jerusalem, 1984

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Preface | v |
| The Coming of Islam to Afghanistan, <i>Clifford Edmund Bosworth</i> | 1 |
| The Origins and Significance of the Chach Nāma, <i>Yohanan Friedmann</i> | 23 |
| Didactic Historical Writing in Indian Islam: <i>Ẓiyā al-Dīn</i> Barani's Treatment of the Reign of Sultan Muḥammad Tughluq (1324–1351), <i>Peter Hardy</i> | 38 |
| Qalandars and Related Groups: Elements of Social Deviance in the Religious Life of the Dehlī Sultanate of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries, <i>Simon Digby</i> | 60 |
| Early Indo-Muslim Saints and Conversion, <i>Bruce B. Lawrence</i> | 109 |
| Hindu Responses to the Muslim Presence in Maharashtra, <i>Balkrishna Govind Gokhale</i> | 146 |
| Muslim Popular Literature in Tamil: The Tamīmaṅcāri Mālai, <i>David Shulman</i> | 174 |
| Iqbal in the Context of Indo-Muslim Mystical Reform Movements, <i>Annemarie Schimmel</i> | 208 |
| The Ṣūfī Khānqāhs in Modern Bihar, <i>Fritz Lehmann</i> | 227 |
| Life Cycle Ceremonies of Converted Muslims in Nepal and Northern India, <i>Marc Gaborieau</i> | 241 |
| Index | 263 |

As the Muslim population of Asia accounts for roughly two thirds of the 750 million Muslims in the world today, there is considerable interest in the Islamic history and civilization of these peripheral areas of the Muslim world, as well as in the peculiar problems facing the Islamic minorities there.

This volume on Islam in the Indo-Pakistani subcontinent, Afghanistan and Nepal has evolved from an international conference on Islam in South, Southeast and East Asia which was held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

A companion volume includes material on Indonesia and China.