

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ISLAM

VOLUME IA
THE CENTRAL ISLAMIC LANDS
FROM PRE-ISLAMIC TIMES
TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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EDITORS' NOTE

The editors wish to state that they were responsible for the corrections made to the first proof, and co-operated in revising the second proof with the Cambridge University Press, which took responsibility for correcting it.

PREFACE

The aim of these volumes is to present the history of Islam as a cultural whole. It is hoped that in a single concise work the reader will be able to follow all the main threads: political, theological, philosophical, economic, scientific, military, artistic. But *The Cambridge history of Islam* is not a repository of facts, names and dates; it is not intended primarily for reference, but as a book for continuous reading. The editors believe that, while it will not be despised by the expert orientalist, it will be useful to students in other fields of history, and particularly to university students of oriental subjects, and will also appeal to those who read history for intellectual pleasure.

A standardized system of translation has been employed for proper names and technical terms in the three principal Islamic languages—Arabic, Persian and Turkish. Some anomalies have, however, been inevitable, and place-names which have a widely accepted conventional spelling have been given in that form. Dates before the nineteenth century have normally been given according to both the Islamic (*Hijri*) and Christian eras. Footnotes have been used sparingly; principally to give references for quotations or authority for conclusions in the text. The bibliographies are not intended as an exhaustive documentation of the subjects to which they refer, but as a guide to further reading. For this reason, and to avoid extensive repetition of titles, many of the bibliographies have been consolidated to cover two or more related contributions.

The Editors are responsible for the planning and organization of the work as a whole. They have tried to avoid gaps and overlaps, and have given general guidance to contributors, designed to secure some consistency of form and presentation. The individual authors are, of course, responsible for their own opinions and interpretations.

The Editors wish to express their thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation of this work. They are particularly grateful to those who undertook the translation of contributions or gave advice and sub-editorial assistance, especially Mr J. G. Burton-Page, Professor C. D. Cowan, Dr J. F. P. Hopkins, Dr A. I. Sabra, Professor H. R. Tinker, Col. Geoffrey Wheeler and Dr D. T. Whiteside. They would also like to thank members of the staff of the Cambridge University Press for their invariable patience and helpfulness.

THE EDITORS

The Cambridge History of Islam is the most comprehensive and ambitious survey of its kind yet to appear in English. It sets out to view Islam as a cultural whole, and to enable the reader to follow all the threads – historical, theological, philosophical, political, economic, scientific, military, artistic – related to the rise, spread, and development of Islamic civilization.

On publication in 1970 the *History* was welcomed as a work useful for both reference and reading, for the general reader, student and specialist alike. It has now been reprinted with corrections, and for ease of handling the original two volumes have each been divided into two parts.

‘...undoubtedly a very valuable and very much needed contribution to the field of Islamic studies. It is a thoroughly scholarly and often erudite presentation of the entire Muslim world that will be consulted by the specialist and non-specialist for many years to come.’

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‘On the basis of length and scope, the *History* is the most comprehensive, and at the same time the most detailed study of Islam so far attempted, and...it is likely to remain so for at least another generation.’

Journal of the American Oriental Society

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