

THE GHAZNAVIDS

THEIR EMPIRE IN

AFGHANISTAN

AND

EASTERN

IRAN

994:1040



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SECOND EDITION

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The first edition of this book went out of print speedily, and a reprint has long been called for. The present new edition now appears from the Librairie du Liban of Beirut, and I am grateful to Messrs. Khalil and George Sayegh for making the book once more available to scholars. The text of the book remains substantially unaltered, apart from corrections of one or two printing errors, but the bibliography has been brought up to date, several studies of significance for Ghaznavid history and several editions of important texts having appeared since 1963.

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NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION

The system employed for Arabic and Persian is that recommended by the Royal Asiatic Society. In regard to Persian, *wāw* is rendered by *w* or *v* and the *majhūl* vowels ignored. The transliteration of Turkish names presents some difficulty. The attempt to fit the sounds of Turkish to the Procrustean bed of the Arabic alphabet has in the sources resulted in outlandish perversions of many Turkish names. I have tried to render the true form, where this is ascertainable; and I have used the vowel system of modern romanised Turkish orthography, with the minor exception that *ā* has occasionally been used as well as *e* for the mid-front vowel sound. Also, I have in many cases indicated the Arabic orthography of the texts by placing this in brackets after the first occurrence of the name; thus, Bilgetigin (Bilkātigīn), Sūbāshī (Sūbāshī), Toghrīl (Ṭughrīl).

NOTE ON REFERENCES

The notes and references are printed at the end of the book (p. 269 ff.) and the page on which any given note appears is printed in square brackets on the inner margin of the headline of the appropriate text page. E.g.

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NOTE ON THE SOURCES

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means that the notes to page 9 appear on page 269.