

ABUL A'LĀ MAWDŪDĪ

مبادئ الإسلام

«باللغة الانجليزية»

TOWARDS  
UNDERSTANDING  
ISLAM

Translated and edited by Khurshid Ahmad

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Mawlana Sayyid Abul A'la Mawdudi (1903–1979), one of the chief architects of contemporary Islamic resurgence, was the most outstanding Islamic thinker and writer of his time. He devoted his entire life to expounding the meaning and message of Islam and to organising a collective movement to establish the Islamic Order. In this struggle, he had to pass through all kinds of suffering. Between 1948–67, he was put behind bars on four occasions, spending a total of five years in different prisons of Pakistan. In 1953, he was also sentenced to death by a Martial Law court for writing a 'seditious' pamphlet, this sentence being later commuted to life imprisonment. In 1941, he founded *Jamā'at-i Islāmī*, of which he remained *Amīr* (Chief) until 1972 and which is one of the most prominent Islamic movements of our day. He authored more than one hundred works on Islam, both scholarly and popular, and his writings have been translated into forty languages.

*Towards Understanding Islam* is one of Mawlana Mawdudi's most popular books. The Urdu original, written in 1932, was intended as a first introduction to Islam for students and laymen and soon became a popular reader. Over a million copies have so far appeared in many of the world's languages, including Arabic, English, Persian, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Swahili, Turkish, Indonesian, Bengali and Hindi.

*Towards Understanding Islam* is a religious text with a difference. It offers a simple exposition of the essential teachings of Islam: its approach to life, the articles of its faith, its scheme of worship and prayers and the social order which it envisages. Its methodology is steeped in the Qur'an. *Towards Understanding Islam* is one of those books which have changed the lives of many and set them along the Islamic path.

THE ISLAMIC FOUNDATION is an educational and research organisation devoted to developing a better understanding of Islam among all the people of the world, Muslim and non-Muslim. It aims at improving human communications so as to galvanise man to the message and ideal of One God and the unity of mankind, as brought by all the Prophets of God throughout the ages, last of whom was the Prophet Muhammad (blessings of Allah and peace be upon him). An important aspect of the Foundation's multifarious activities is the publication of literature about Islam.

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