

Notes on Contributors

Asma Barlas obtained a B.A. in English Literature and Philosophy and an M.A. in Journalism from Pakistan, and a Ph.D. in International Studies (from the USA). She has published as a journalist, poet, and short story writer. Her scholarly work includes papers on the Qur'an and Muslim women's rights (published in the *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, for example). She has also published two books, most recently "*Believing Women*" in *Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an* (2002). Born in Pakistan, she was one of the first women to be inducted into the Foreign Service, but was then removed by the military ruler General Zia ul-Haq for her criticism of him. She joined the *Muslim*, a leading opposition newspaper, as assistant editor. In the mid-1980s she left Pakistan for the USA, where she eventually received political asylum.

Andreas Christmann received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Leipzig. For the last five years he has been Lecturer in Contemporary Islam in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Manchester. His current research interests include Qur'anic hermeneutics as developed in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Islamic thought, and the life and work of the Damascene Kurdish scholar Muhammad Sa'id Ramadan al-Buti.

Ursula Günther studied Arabic, Islamic Studies and Romance languages and literature in Tübingen, Paris and Hamburg. She was awarded her Ph.D. on Mohammed Arkoun at the University of Hamburg. She is currently engaged in research on Islam and the transition process in South Africa, at the University of Hamburg. Her research interests include gender studies, North Africa, the history of ideas, and inter-religious/intercultural dialogue. Her publications include *Mohammed Arkoun: ein moderner Kritiker der islamischen Vernunft* (forthcoming), and chapters on aspects of Islam in South and sub-Saharan Africa, in Algeria, Muslim feminism, and Islamic modernism and fundamentalism.

Anthony H. Johns completed a degree in Arabic and Malay at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; his Ph.D. thesis was on Sufism in the Malay world (1954). After four years in Indonesia he was appointed to the Australian National University in Canberra where he taught Arabic and Islamic Studies for many years. In the course of his distinguished career he has held visiting appointments in Jerusalem, Toronto, Tokyo and Oxford, and spent many research periods in Cairo. He has published numerous major papers in journals, and chapters in books, on various aspects of the Qur'an and Qur'anic exegesis, and on the vernacularisation of the foundation texts of Islam in Indonesia. Now Emeritus Professor, he is Visiting Fellow in the Division of Pacific and Asian History of the Research School of Asian and Pacific Studies at the Australian National University.

Navid Kermani has taught at the University of Bonn and is currently Long-Term Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies (Wissenschaftskolleg) in Berlin. Among his publications are: *Gott ist schön: Das ästhetische Leben des Koran* (1999); *Iran – Die Revolution der Kinder* (2001), *Dynamit des Geistes: Martyrium, Islam und Nihilismus* (2002); *Das Buch der von Neil Young Getöteten* (2002). In 2000, he was awarded the Ernst-Bloch-Förderpreis by the city of Ludwigshafen. Kermani has also worked as an artistic director at the theatres of Frankfurt and Mülheim an der Ruhr.

Ronald L. Nettle is University Research Lecturer in Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and Fellow of Mansfield College. He has written widely on Islamic thought, medieval and modern, and on Muslim-Jewish relations.

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Suha Taji-Farouki is Lecturer in Modern Islam at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, and Research Associate at The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London. Her publications include *A Fundamental Quest: Hizb al-Tahrir and the Search for the Islamic Caliphate* (1996); *Muslim Identity and the Balkan State* (co-edited, 1997); *Muslim-Jewish Encounters: Intellectual Traditions and Modern Politics* (co-edited, 1998); and *Islamic Thought in the Twentieth Century* (co-edited, in press).

Osman Taştan is Associate Professor in the Department of Islamic Law at Ankara University's Faculty of Divinity. He obtained his Ph.D. from Exeter University, UK. He is a member of the editorial board of *İslamiyat*, an Ankara-based Turkish journal of Islamic studies. His work includes a chapter on "Religion and Religious Minorities" in Turkey and articles on the theory and history of Islamic law. His research also covers population policy in Islamic Law, and war and peace in Islamic Law.

Farzin Vahdat is a sociologist interested in critical theory and the development of modernity in the West and the Middle East. He teaches Social Studies at Harvard University, and is the author of *God and Juggernaut: Iran's Intellectual Encounter with Modernity* (2002). His articles have appeared in such journals as *Critique* and the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.