

Note on Transliteration, Conventions and Geographical Terminology

The term Seljuk might also be reasonably transliterated several different ways: Seljūq, Saljūq or Seljūk. Trying to give an impression of mediaeval Turkish pronunciation while remaining faithful to the standard transliteration of Arabic and Persian is well nigh impossible. In the text I have favoured a simplified system of transliteration of Arabic, Persian and Turkish personal and geographical names, and names of texts. Full diacritics will be found in the bibliography and the index. Technical terms and quotations from Arabic or Persian are given full diacritics in line with the usual British conventions.

References to *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (*EP*) and the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (*EIr*) are given simply to the article heading without page or volume numbers as the online versions are widely used today, and in the case of *EIr* many are only available online.

Many geographical terms have changed their meaning since the Middle Ages. Here, the Sultanate of Iraq refers not to modern Iraq, but to roughly western Iran and central modern Iraq. To avoid confusion I prefer to use the term Jibal for western Iran, and Arab Iraq for territories west of the Zagros in modern Iraq. Iran rarely appears in mediaeval texts, and when it is used here it has a purely geographical sense to describe the Iranian plateau; it does not carry any political connotations. Azerbaijan is used in its mediaeval sense of northwestern Iran. Syria refers to the historical Bilad al-Sham, that is, the modern republic of Syria and its immediate neighbours, Lebanon, northern Jordan, Palestine, the Hatay. Khurasan, too, is used with its historical meaning, an area that extends far to the east beyond the confines of the modern Iranian province of Khurasan (see pp. 1–2 below), up to the River Oxus.

Translations are my own, except where otherwise indicated. Published translations, where available, are listed in the bibliography.