

## A NOTE ON ARABIC TRANSLITERATION

In transcribing Arabic into English, I have kept the general reader in mind. The text follows a modified version of the Arabic transliteration system according to the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (IJMES). I have eliminated all diacriticals and long-vowel markers except for the ayn (‘) and hamza (’) in cases where the words commonly appear with diacritical marks. Therefore, I use the words *Quran*, *Shiites*, and *Ba’ath* according to common usage. Words appear in the plural form by the addition of an *s* to the singular, except in cases where the plural form has been standardized. Except on first mention, the article *al* has been omitted from the last names of individuals. Accordingly, Ali al-Sistani appears as Sistani throughout the text. Names with common English spellings, such as those widely cited in Western media, are preserved as such (for example, Hosni Mubarak and Saddam Hussein).