

# PATRIOTIC AYATOLLAHS



# PATRIOTIC AYATOLLAHS

*Nationalism in Post-Saddam Iraq*

CAROLEEN MARJI SAYEJ

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS  
ITHACA AND LONDON

Cornell University Press gratefully acknowledges receipt of grants from the Office of the Dean of Faculty and the Department of Government and International Relations at Connecticut College, which aided in the publication of this book.

Copyright © 2018 by Cornell University

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations in a review, this book, or parts thereof, must not be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher. For information, address Cornell University Press, Sage House, 512 East State Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

First published 2018 by Cornell University Press

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Sayej, Caroleen Marji, 1975– author.

Title: Patriotic ayatollahs : nationalism in post-Saddam Iraq / Caroleen Marji Sayej.

Description: Ithaca : Cornell University Press, 2018. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017028911 (print) | LCCN 2017030831 (ebook) | ISBN 9781501714856 (pdf) | ISBN 9781501714764 (epub/mobi) | ISBN 9781501715211 (cloth : alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Iraq—Politics and government—2003– | Ulama—Political activity—Iraq—History—21st century. | Islam and politics—Iraq—History—21st century. | Nationalism—Iraq—History—21st century.

Classification: LCC DS79.769 (ebook) | LCC DS79.769. S29 2018 (print) | DDC 956.7044/3—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017028911>

Cornell University Press strives to use environmentally responsible suppliers and materials to the fullest extent possible in the publishing of its books. Such materials include vegetable-based, low-VOC inks and acid-free papers that are recycled, totally chlorine-free, or partly composed of nonwood fibers. For further information, visit our website at [cornellpress.cornell.edu](http://cornellpress.cornell.edu).

Cover image: Najaf, Iraq, May 2012: Shiite mullahs walking to the holy tomb of Ali. Credit: Thomas Koch / Shutterstock.com.

To my daughters, Noor and Rania  
And my partner in life, Wael  
And for the people of Iraq, may they gain security and freedom

