

Note on Arabic Transliteration

In this book, Arabic terms are generally transliterated according to the system used by the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. Variations occur where it has been considered important to convey the pronunciation of Sudanese spoken Arabic. Therefore, ق is alternately transliterated as “q” or as “g”; ذ may appear as “dh” or “z”; ظ as “th” or “t”; and vowels and diphthongs vary according to local practice. Names of people are transliterated, whereas toponyms and ethnic names are given in their English most common form (e.g. Khartoum, Darfur, El Obeid, Deim, Baggara, Beja). Place names whose occurrence in English is scarce or non-existing are partially transliterated, using “al-” rather than “El” and “Jabal” rather than “Jebel” but omitting diacritics (e.g. al-Damir, Hay al-Zihur, Jabal Marra). Arabic words that have become frequent in English are usually not transliterated (e.g. Islam, Sharia, sheikh, qadi, jihad). In the index, Arabic names starting with an ‘ayn have been written without it so that they are ordered alphabetically (Abd al-Laṭīf, ‘Alī rather than ‘Abd al-Laṭīf, ‘Alī).

