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## Editors' Note

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Contributors to this volume come from very different disciplines including classical oriental studies, history and sociology. This diversity in disciplinary approach was from the start reflected in terminology and attitude towards sources and texts. We thought it valuable to maintain this diversity, and specifically we have not engaged in homogenising difference in transliteration and forms of quotation – in some cases resembling different traditions to write Arabic in Latin letters and to give reference to sources and material. The individual texts, as they stand, reflect the homogeneous attitudes of the authors and we do believe that this contributes to flavour the dialogue which we pursue with this book.

Sigrid Noekel – as so often – has taken the considerable task of coordinating and participating in editing this volume at various stages of its growth and we would like to express our very special thanks.

Professor Jörn Rüsen, President of the KWI (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut) in Essen, Germany, and Professor Walter Bisang, Speaker of the “Sonderforschungsbereich 295: Kulturelle und sprachliche Kontakte,” University of Mainz, Germany, with their support have made the preparation of this volume possible, again we convey our gratitude.

Frankfurt am Main, September 2006.  
G.S.