NOTE ON TRANSLATIONS AND TRANSLITERATIONS

This book employs the Library of Congress transliteration system. We note differences in 'ayn (') and hamza (') but do not use macros or diacritics to identify particular Arabic letters or differentiate long and short vowels. When using the definite article (al-), we do not distinguish between qamari and shamsi letters. Therefore, the definite article (al-) is contracted with the following definite article (e.g. wa+al=wal) We translate the ta-marbutah as -ah unless it is in an idafa, in which case it is at. For feminine nisbah adjectives, the book uses -iyah, not iyya.

Most transliterations should be clear even to readers without an advanced level of Arabic. We kept Anglicized versions of Arabic personal names when they have appeared within the Anglophone historical, academic or mainstream record (e.g. Jawhariyyeh, Safieh, Raad, and Husseini as opposed to Jawhariyah, Safiyah, R'ad, and Husayni) and popular Arab names in English, such as Abdallah/Abdullah, are provided without indicating the 'ayn. The same is the case for particular types of place names, such as Beit Safafa as opposed to Bayt Safafa. We use the predominant English translation for well-known geographic locations, such as Palestine, Jerusalem, Cairo, Beirut, etc. When we use the indigenous Arabic place name, we gloss the Arabic with an English translation in parentheses the first time we mention that location (e.g., Bab al-Khalil [Jaffa Gate]).

Many Ottoman Turkish names remain Arabized, such as Jamal Pasha, although some are left in their Ottoman Turkish original, such as Abdülaziz and Abdülhamid.

All translations are our own unless otherwise indicated.

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