TRANSLITERATION & CONVENTIONS

This has been a very difficult work to edit because the contributors come from different generations and different academic traditions, write in different languages (Russian, Azeri, French, German and English) and use sources in different languages (Arabic, Persian, Georgian, Albanian and Armenian). I quickly realized that imposing uniformity would be impossible and so I have respected the fact that the same name is transliterated in different ways according to the author's own field of expertise. So the modern Westernized name of the city of Barda is also written: Partaw (Arm.), Bardavi (Georg.), Bardha'a (Arab.) and Bərdə (Turk.). To reduce confusion, I have generally made it clear where there are alternative spellings of the same name, and in the index multiple names for the same person/place are cross-referenced to one another. My one concession to uniformity was to update the transliteration of some of the older contributions, which were written at a time when it was not required or even usual to employ diacritical marks fully.

For the non-expert reader interested to know how the proper names transliterated from their source language are pronounced, I give a few pointers here.

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Transliteration from Armenian/Georgian:
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c = English ts
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 $\check{c} = \text{English ch (as in church)}$

 $\bar{e} = ye$ (as in English yes)

 $\check{j} = zh$ (as in English measure)

 $\check{z} = dz$ (as in English beds)

 $\check{s} = \text{English sh (as in short)}$

x = Arabic kh, or = Scottish/German ch (as in loch/ich)

 \dot{r} = Spanish (trilled) r (as distinct from the soft English r)

I = hard I in our period, like the Russian hard I or as in English ball, but later and now
it is a guttural sound like the French r or Arabic ghayn

"= aspiration, i.e. it is placed after a consonant to indicate that it is aspirated (compare the aspirated t of tiger with the unaspirated t of cut, and the aspirated k of kind with the unaspirated k of flak)

Transliteration from Arabic:

- \dot{q} , \dot{s} and \dot{t} = English \dot{q} , \dot{s} and \dot{t} but pronounced with the tongue against the bottom teeth rather than the top teeth, which alters the sound of the following vowel
- h = English h but pronounced with a greater exhalation of breath
- ' = hamza, a glottal stop, that is, a closing of the throat (as in East London bu'er for "butter")
- ' = 'ayn, a consonant that is similar to the hamza, but rather than close the throat, one expels a little air, as though making a small cough.
- \bar{a} , \bar{i} and $\bar{u} = a$, i and u, but pronounced long.