

Note on Transliteration

This book follows a modified version of the transliteration standards developed by the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. In the interest of readability, I omit all diacritical marks with the exception of *ayn* (ʿ) and *hamza* (ʔ). Exceptions include words taken from the Iraqi dialect, especially those with the suffix *-či*. For example, the Modern Standard Arabic term *aydiuluji* (ideological) is transliterated as *aydiuluchi*.

Arabic and Kurdish names for people, places, and institutions—as well as titles and technical terms—are transliterated without diacritical marks and are written as they are normally encountered in the English-language media. The definite article is omitted after the first mention of people, places, and institutions. For example, “Nouri al-Maliki” occurs for the first usage and is rendered “Maliki” thereafter. Anglicized plurals—as opposed to irregular plurals in Arabic or Kurdish—are formed by adding the singular *s*. For example, the plural of “sheikh” will be “sheikhs” instead of “shuyukh.”

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