

A Note on Transliteration

A simplified version of the standard transliteration method is employed in the text for spelling Arabic, Persian, and Urdu terms. The objective is to maintain a middle ground between simplicity and technical precision, to render foreign terms more or less exactly without compromising readability of the printed text. The following practices are employed to achieve this objective:

1. No diacritical marks are employed in personal and institutional names.
2. For transliteration of terms, diacritical marks are used somewhat sparingly:
 - a. The diacritical underdot—used in formal texts for such Arabic letters as the guttural h and velar s, d, t, and z—is dispensed with altogether.
 - b. The macron (ˉ) is employed consistently for the long vowels ā, ū, and ī.
 - c. The symbols for *ain* (‘) and *hamza* (˔) are included when they occur in the middle of a word, excluded when the sounds they represent occur at the beginning or the end of a word (for example, *sharī*ˈa; but *ulamā*, not ˈulamā˔).

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