

Acknowledgements

The following chapters reflect the help of all the Iranians who have given me their time during the course of this project. Foremost is the incredible hospitality and generosity of the many Iranians living in London who have shared their knowledge and experiences with me. I am extremely grateful for their support.

I am indebted to a number of people for their assistance with this book. My deep appreciation goes to my Persian teacher, Parvaneh. Her help has been invaluable throughout this study. My sincere thanks to: Anoush Baghdiantz, Ian Dougal, Joanna de Groot, Jason Edwards, Ilian Haralanov, Anna Enayat, Deniz Kandiyoti, Homa Katouzian, Kate Morris, Mehdi Moslem, Xavier Munõz, Kamal Parsi-pour, Armando Salvatore, Alex Seago, Idoia Turro, Caroline Wintersgill and Matthijs Van den Bos for reading parts of the text and making helpful remarks at different phases of this project. I want to thank my friends who participated in the 'Public Spheres and Muslim Identities' Summer Institute, who gave me very constructive comments and engaged with me in lengthy discussions. Of course, the shortcomings in this work are my responsibility alone.

I would especially like to thank Sami Zubaida, who has been a constant source of knowledge and encouragement over the years. It has been a great honour and pleasure being his student.

I owe a special thanks to Karin Hesse-Lehmann and Albrecht Lehmann for their whole-hearted support, enthusiasm and insightful comments.

Nima Zahed has been an important part of this work. His love, patience and encouragement have guided me through every stage of this project.

This book is dedicated to my parents, Martin and Patricia Spellman, and my brothers and sisters in gratitude for their love and support.