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0521531225 - The Renewal of Islamic Law: Muhammad Baqer As-Sadr, Najaf and the Shi'i International - Chibli Mallat

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This is the first comprehensive study of the life and works of Muhammad Baqer as-Sadr – an Iraqi scholar who made an important contribution to the renewal of Islamic law and politics in the contemporary Middle East. Executed in 1980 by the regime of Saddam Hussein, Sadr was the most articulate thinker as well as a major political actor in the revival of Shi'i learning, which placed Najaf in southern Iraq at its centre.

Dr Chibli Mallat examines in depth the intellectual development of Sadr and his companions, who included Ayatollah Ruhullah al-Khumaini. He assesses how Sadr reformed the system of religious education and developed innovative approaches to the key areas of study of law, economics and banking. The author convincingly demonstrates how Sadr's ideas and activities were influential in the rise of political Islam across the Middle East, particularly in countries with strong Shi'i constituencies such as Iran, Iraq and Lebanon, and played an important part in the Iranian revolution of 1979.

Given the renewed interest in Islam as a religious, political and social phenomenon, this is a most timely book and will be widely read by students and specialists of law, economics and the politics of the Middle East as well as of the history of ideas.

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Muhammad Baqer as-Sadr, Najaf and
the Shi'i International

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Acknowledgments

This work is owed, primarily, to my parents, whose generosity and encouragement allowed me to complete it. I should like to dedicate it to them.

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Note on transliteration and dates

Italic and capitals

I have adopted for Arabic and Persian words the standard transliteration of the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, but I have omitted the diacritics, except in the bibliography and index. /' / is used for 'ayn and /' / for hamza.

Arabic and Persian words have been italicised throughout, except for usual non-italicised items which are current in English (such as the Qur'an), and institutions like the Iranian Majles (Parliament). In this case, they also begin with a capital. Following Henry Corbin (*En Islam Iranien*, 4 vols., Paris, 1971–2), the word *Imam* is capitalised only in reference to the Twelve *Imams* of the Shi'i tradition.

Also, as in Batatu's standard work on Iraq (*The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements in Iraq*, Princeton, 1978), we have found it more accurate to write as-Sadr rather than al-Sadr, at-Tabataba'i rather than al-Tabataba'i etc.

Abbreviations

Q	Qur'an
BSOAS	<i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i>
IJMES	<i>International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies</i>
SI	<i>Studia Islamica</i> .

Dates

If a single date is used, reference is to the Gregorian Christian calendar. When a *hijri* (Hegire) date is used, it is followed by the corresponding Gregorian date. No specification is made to Hijri *qamari* (lunar calendar) or to Hijri *shamsi* (solar calendar generally used in modern Iran) since the context is generally sufficient to distinguish the use of each, which is in any case followed by the AD date.