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978-0-521-85836-6 - Contesting the Saudi State: Islamic Voices from a New Generation

Madawi Al-Rasheed

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Contesting the Saudi State

The terms Wahhabi or Salafi are seen as interchangeable and frequently misunderstood by outsiders. However, as Madawi Al-Rasheed explains in a fascinating exploration of Saudi Arabia in the twenty-first century, even Saudis do not agree on their meaning. Under the influence of mass education, printing, new communication technology, and global media, they are forming their own conclusions and debating religion and politics in traditional and novel venues, often violating official taboos and the conservative values of Saudi society. Drawing on classical religious sources, contemporary readings and interviews, Al-Rasheed presents an ethnography of consent and contest, exploring the fluidity of the boundaries between the religious and political. Bridging the gap between text and context, the author also examines how states and citizens manipulate religious discourse for purely political ends, and how this manipulation generates unpredictable reactions whose control escapes those who initiated them.

MADAWI AL-RASHEED is Professor of Anthropology of Religion at King's College, University of London. She specialises in Saudi history, society, politics and religion. Her recent publications include *A History of Saudi Arabia* (2002) and *Transnational Connections and the Arab Gulf* (2005).

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*A prince is always compelled to injure those who have made him the new ruler,
subjecting them to the troops and imposing the endless other hardships which
his new conquest entails*

Niccolo Machiavelli *The Prince*

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Glossary

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>ahfad al-sahaba</i> | grandsons of the companions of the Prophet |
| <i>ahl al-dhimma</i> | people of the book, Christians and Jews |
| <i>ahl al-hadith</i> | those who interpret the Prophetic tradition literally |
| <i>ahl al-hall wa 'l-'aqd</i> | decision makers (lit. 'people who loose and tie') |
| <i>ahl al-qibla</i> | people who face Mecca for prayer |
| <i>ahl al-sunna wa 'l-jama'a</i> | Sunnis (lit. 'people of the tradition of the Prophet and community') |
| <i>ahl al-tawhid</i> | people of monotheism |
| <i>aimat al-da'wa al-najdiyya</i> | Najdi religious scholars |
| <i>amir</i> (pl. <i>umara</i>) | ruler, prince |
| <i>amr bi 'l-ma'ruf wa 'l-nahy 'an al-munkar</i> | promotion of virtue and prohibition of vice |
| <i>'aqida</i> | creed |
| <i>asl</i> | principle |
| <i>baghi</i> (pl. <i>bughat</i>) | usurper |
| <i>bara'</i> | dissociation from infidels |
| <i>bay'a</i> | oath of allegiance |
| <i>bid'a</i> | innovation, heresy |
| <i>bilad al-haramayn</i> | the Land of the Two Holy Mosques |
| <i>da'if</i> | weak |
| <i>da'iyya</i> (f. <i>da'iyyat</i> ; pl. <i>du'at</i>) | preacher |
| <i>da'wa</i> | religious call, mission |
| <i>dawla</i> | state |
| <i>dawlat al-tawhid</i> | monotheist polity |
| <i>dhal</i> | one who has gone astray |
| <i>dhalal</i> | debauchery, obscurity |
| <i>du'at al-islah</i> | reformers |
| <i>fajir</i> | sinful, despotic |
| <i>fard 'ayn</i> | an obligation incumbent upon every Muslim |

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Glossary

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| | |
|---|---|
| <i>fard kifaya</i> | an obligation performed by a sufficient number of Muslims |
| <i>fasiq</i> | debauched |
| <i>fatwa</i> | religious opinion issued by <i>shari'a</i> expert |
| <i>al-fi'a al-dhalla</i> | the group that has gone astray |
| <i>fiqh</i> | Islamic jurisprudence |
| <i>fitna</i> | strife, dissent |
| Hadith | tradition, saying of the Prophet |
| <i>hajr al-mubta'di'</i> | ostracisation of innovators |
| <i>hakim</i> | ruler |
| <i>hakimiyya</i> | sovereignty |
| <i>haraki</i> | politicised activist |
| <i>haram</i> | forbidden |
| <i>harb 'ala al-kuffar</i> | a battle against the infidels |
| <i>hayat al-amr bi'l-ma'ruf wa'l-nahy 'an al-munkar</i> | Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice |
| <i>hijra</i> | migration |
| <i>hizb al-ghulat</i> | radicals |
| <i>hizbiyya</i> | adherence to party politics |
| <i>hizb al-wulat</i> | loyalists |
| <i>'ibada</i> (pl. <i>'ibadat</i>) | Islamic rituals, worship |
| <i>ijtihad</i> | applying reason to reach a religious ruling |
| <i>'ilm</i> | knowledge |
| <i>'ilmani</i> (pl. <i>'ilmaniyyun</i>) | secular, secularist |
| <i>imama</i> | state, leadership of the Muslim state |
| <i>inkar al-munkar</i> | disavowing the abominable |
| <i>iqamat al-hadd</i> (pl. <i>iqamat al-hudud</i>) | punishment |
| <i>islah</i> | reform |
| <i>islahi</i> (f. <i>islahiyya</i> ; pl. <i>islahiyyin, islahiyyat</i>) | reformer |
| <i>jahil</i> | one who is ignorant |
| <i>jahiliyya</i> | the age of ignorance |
| <i>ja'ir</i> | despot |
| <i>jami'at al-'ulama</i> | association of <i>'ulama</i> |
| <i>jazirat al-'arab/jazira al-'arabiyya</i> | the Arabian Peninsula |
| <i>jihad</i> | exertion, struggle for the way of God |
| <i>kafir</i> (pl. <i>kafirun</i>) | unbeliever, blasphemous |
| <i>khawarij al-'asr</i> | contemporary Kharijites |
| <i>al-khitab al-dini</i> | religious discourse |
| <i>khuruj bi'l-sayf</i> | violent rebellion |

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Glossary

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>khuruj siyasi</i> | political rebellion |
| <i>khuruj 'ala wali al-amr/</i> <i>khuruj 'ala al-hakim</i> | rebellion against the ruler |
| <i>kitab</i> | book |
| <i>kufr</i> | unbelief, blasphemy |
| <i>kufr barwah/kufra</i> <i>barwahan</i> | obvious blasphemy |
| <i>ma'asi</i> | minor sins |
| <i>madhhab</i> (pl. <i>madhahib</i>) | school of jurisprudence |
| <i>majlis</i> | meeting, council, study circle |
| <i>majlis al-hiwar al-watani</i> | National Dialogue Forum |
| <i>majlis al-shura</i> | consultative council |
| <i>ma'ruf</i> | that which is known in <i>shari'a</i> |
| <i>maslaha</i> | interest, public good |
| <i>mu'ahadin</i> | infidels enjoying a protected contractual relationship with Muslims |
| <i>mu'amalat ja'iza</i> | permissible relations |
| <i>mufti</i> | jurisconsult, highest religious authority |
| <i>al-muhajirun</i> | the Muslims who migrated from Mecca with the Prophet |
| <i>mujahidun</i> | Jihadis |
| <i>munafiq</i> (pl. <i>munafiqun</i>) | hypocrite |
| <i>munkar</i> | evil |
| <i>murabitun 'ala al-thugur</i> | 'tied to the fortresses' |
| <i>mushrik</i> (pl. <i>mushrikun</i>) | polytheists, blasphemers |
| <i>mut'a</i> | temporary marriage |
| <i>mutawa' (pl. mutawa'a)</i> | religious specialist |
| <i>muthaqaf</i> | intellectual associated with acquiring Western knowledge |
| <i>muwahhidun</i> | monotheists |
| <i>naqidh lil islam</i> (pl. <i>na'waqidh al-Islam</i>) | that which removes a Muslim from the religious community and Islam |
| <i>nidham</i> | legislation |
| <i>nidham kufri</i> | a blasphemous regime |
| <i>nifaq</i> | hypocrisy |
| <i>nukhba</i> | elite |
| <i>al-nukhba al-fikriyya</i> | intellectual elite |
| <i>qadi</i> | judge |
| <i>qa'idun</i> | those left behind (lit. 'sitting') |
| <i>qiyas</i> | deduction by analogy |
| <i>ra'iyya</i> | subjects |
| <i>al-sahabiyyat</i> | early female companions |

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| | |
|---|---|
| <i>sahwa</i> | awakening |
| <i>al-salaf al-salih</i> | pious ancestors |
| <i>shabab</i> | youth |
| <i>shari'a</i> | Islamic legal codes and rules |
| <i>sheikh</i> | tribal leader, religious scholar, notable |
| <i>shirk</i> | blasphemy, heresy, polytheism |
| <i>shubuhat</i> (sg. <i>shubuha</i>) | misguided opinions |
| <i>shura</i> | consultation |
| <i>sunna</i> | tradition of the Prophet (words and deeds) |
| <i>sura</i> | Quranic verse |
| <i>taghut</i> (pl. <i>tawaghit</i>) | despot, idol |
| <i>tajdid al-khitab al-dini</i> | renewing religious discourse |
| <i>takfir</i> | excommunication |
| <i>takfir al-mu'ayan</i> | the excommunication of an individual |
| <i>takfir al-mujtama'</i> | the excommunication of an entire society |
| <i>takfir al-'umum</i> | mass excommunication |
| <i>taraju'at</i> | going back on previous opinions, repentance |
| <i>taraju'at qasriyya</i> | forced repentance |
| <i>tariqa</i> (pl. <i>turuq</i>) | Sufi way |
| <i>tawba</i> | repentance |
| <i>tawhid</i> | doctrine of the oneness of God |
| <i>tawwali</i> | subservience through loyalty |
| <i>tawwali al-kuffar</i> | subservience to infidels |
| <i>tayar</i> | movement, trend |
| <i>tayar al-haraki</i> | organised Islamist movement |
| <i>tazkiyya</i> | an approval certificate |
| <i>'ulama</i> (sg. <i>'alim</i>) | religious scholar, scientist |
| <i>'ulama al-sultan</i> | the religious establishment |
| <i>umami</i> | global |
| <i>umma</i> | the Muslim community |
| <i>wala'</i> | association, loyalty |
| <i>al-wala' wa 'l-bara'</i> | association with Muslims and dissociation from infidels |
| <i>wali al-amr</i> (pl. <i>wulat al-amr</i>) | ruler, the one who is in charge of affairs |
| <i>wasat</i> (n. <i>wasatiyya</i>) | centrist |
| <i>watan</i> | homeland |
| <i>wataniyya</i> | citizenship |
| <i>zaffat al-shahid</i> | celebration of a martyr |
| <i>zakat</i> | Islamic tax |

Foreign words and phrases

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>‘ash‘ash fiha al-shaytan</i> | the abode of Satan |
| <i>‘ahd</i> | oath |
| <i>ahfad al-sahaba</i> | grandsons of the companions of the Prophet |
| <i>‘ahirat al-rum</i> | ‘Roman prostitutes’ (Pejoratively American female soldiers on Saudi soil) |
| <i>ahkam</i> | rules |
| <i>ahl al-dhalal</i> | those who have gone astray |
| <i>ahl al-dhimma</i> | people of the book, Christians and Jews |
| <i>ahl al-fiqh</i> | people of jurisprudence |
| <i>ahl al-hadith</i> | those who interpret the Prophetic tradition literally |
| <i>ahl al-hall wa ‘l-‘aqd</i> | decision makers (lit. ‘people who loose and tie’) |
| <i>ahl al-qibla</i> | people who face Mecca for prayer |
| <i>ahl-al-sulban</i> | Christians (lit. ‘people of the cross’) |
| <i>ahl al-sunna wa ‘l-jama‘a</i> | Sunnis (lit. ‘people of the tradition of the Prophet and community’) |
| <i>ahl al-tawhid</i> | people of monotheism |
| <i>ahzab siyasiyya</i> | political parties |
| <i>‘aima</i> | religious scholars |
| <i>aimat al-da‘wa al-najdiyya</i> | Najdi religious scholars |
| <i>ajnabi</i> | foreigner |
| <i>‘ajuz</i> | old |
| <i>akhtar ghaltha</i> | more harsh |
| <i>aman</i> | peace |
| <i>amir (pl umara)</i> | ruler, prince |
| <i>‘amm</i> | public |
| <i>amr bi ‘l-ma‘ruf wa ‘l-nahy ‘an al-munkar</i> | promotion of virtue and prohibition of vice |
| <i>ansab</i> | genealogies |
| <i>al-ansar</i> | supporters of the early Muslim immigrants in Madina |
| <i>‘aqida</i> | creed |
| <i>‘aql</i> | reason |
| <i>aqwal al-sahaba</i> | sayings of the Prophet’s companions |
| <i>‘aris</i> | bridegroom |
| <i>‘arus</i> | bride |
| <i>asl</i> | principle |
| <i>‘asr</i> | captivity |

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| <i>al-awliya</i> | pious men |
| <i>ayam al-dhalal</i> | days of obscurity |
| <i>azma</i> | crisis |
| <i>bagdha'</i> | hatred |
| <i>baghi</i> (pl. <i>bughat</i>) | usurper |
| <i>bara'</i> | dissociation from infidels |
| <i>bay'a</i> | oath of allegiance |
| <i>bayn dhuhrani al-mushrikin</i> | living among polytheists |
| <i>bid'a</i> | innovation, heresy |
| <i>bilad al-haramayn</i> | the Land of the Two Holy Mosques |
| <i>burqa'</i> | veil that allows only the eyes to appear |
| <i>da'if</i> | weak |
| <i>da'iyya</i> (f. <i>da'iyyat</i> ; pl. <i>du'at</i>) | preacher |
| <i>da'wa</i> | religious call, mission |
| <i>dawla</i> | state |
| <i>dawlat al-tawhid</i> | monotheist polity |
| <i>dayuuth</i> | pimp |
| <i>dhal</i> | one who has gone astray |
| <i>dhalal</i> | debauchery, obscurity |
| <i>dhikr</i> | devotional recitation |
| <i>diya</i> | blood money |
| <i>du'at al-islah</i> | reformers |
| <i>fajir</i> | sinful, despotic |
| <i>faqih</i> (pl. <i>fuqaha'</i>) | jurist, jurisprudent |
| <i>fard 'ayn</i> | an obligation incumbent upon every Muslim |
| <i>fard kifaya</i> | an obligation performed by a sufficient number of Muslims |
| <i>faridha</i> | duty, obligation |
| <i>fasad</i> | corruption |
| <i>fasiq</i> | debauched |
| <i>fatwa</i> (pl. <i>fatawa</i>) | religious opinion issued by <i>shari'a</i> expert |
| <i>al-fi'a al-dhalla</i> | the group that has gone astray |
| <i>fida'iyyin</i> | soldiers, comrades |
| <i>fikr shadh</i> | perverse thought |
| <i>fiqh</i> | Islamic jurisprudence |
| <i>fiqh al-halal wa 'l-haram</i> | jurisprudence of the permissible and the forbidden |
| <i>fiqh al-'ibadat</i> | jurisprudence of worship |
| <i>al-firqa al-dhalla</i> | those who have gone astray |
| <i>fitna</i> | strife, dissent |
| <i>fitra</i> | instinct, nature |

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| <i>gafwa</i> | sleep |
| <i>ghadh al-basar</i> | lowering the gaze |
| <i>ghazu</i> | raid |
| <i>ghulat</i> | religious extremists |
| <i>ghulu</i> | radicalism |
| <i>ghutra</i> | white headcover |
| <i>hadith</i> | tradition, saying of the Prophet |
| <i>hafadhat Quran</i> | people who memorised the Quran |
| <i>hajj</i> | pilgrimage |
| <i>hajr al-mubtadi'</i> | ostracisation of innovators |
| <i>hakim</i> | ruler |
| <i>hakimiyya</i> | sovereignty |
| <i>hakim ja'ir</i> | a despotic ruler |
| <i>hakim kafir</i> | a blasphemous ruler |
| <i>al-hakim al-munafiq</i> | the hypocrite ruler |
| <i>haraki</i> | politicised activist |
| <i>haram</i> | forbidden |
| <i>harb 'ala al-kuffar</i> | a battle against the infidels |
| <i>harbi</i> | aggressive |
| <i>hasad</i> | envy |
| <i>hayat al-amr bi'l-ma'ruf wa 'l-nahy 'an al-munkar</i> | Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice |
| <i>hayba</i> | aura, authority |
| <i>hijab</i> | veil |
| <i>hijra</i> | migration |
| <i>himla salibiyya</i> | a crusade |
| <i>hisba</i> | accountability |
| <i>hizb al-ghulat</i> | radicals |
| <i>hizbiyya</i> | adherence to party politics |
| <i>hizb al-wulat</i> | loyalists |
| <i>hudud</i> | punishments |
| <i>hukam al-riyadh</i> | (pejoratively) the rulers of Riyadh |
| <i>al-hukm al-jabri</i> | coercive rule |
| <i>hurra</i> | free woman |
| <i>'ibada</i> (pl. <i>'ibadat</i>) | Islamic rituals, worship |
| <i>iftar</i> | breakfast |
| <i>ijma'</i> | consensus |
| <i>ijtihad</i> | applying reason to reach a religious ruling |
| <i>'ilm</i> | knowledge |
| <i>'ilmani</i> (pl. <i>'ilmaniyyun</i>) | secular, secularist |
| <i>iltizam</i> | commitment to the tradition |
| <i>imama</i> | state, leadership of the Muslim state |

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|---|---|
| <i>inhizamiyyat al-umma</i> | the defeatist attitude of the <i>umma</i> |
| <i>inkar al-munkar</i> | disavowing the abominable |
| <i>iqamat al-hadd</i> | punishment |
| (pl. <i>iqamat al-hudud</i>) | |
| <i>islah</i> | reform |
| <i>islahi</i> (f. <i>islahiyya</i> ; pl. <i>islahiyyin</i> , <i>islahiyyat</i>) | reformer |
| <i>islah al-mawruth al-ijtima'i</i> | reform of social heritage |
| <i>isti'ana</i> | assistance |
| <i>istila</i> | seizure of power by force |
| <i>istirahat al-muharib</i> | a temporary period of rest |
| <i>itisal</i> | communication |
| <i>jadwal zamani</i> | timetable |
| <i>jahil</i> | one who is ignorant |
| <i>jahiliyya</i> | the age of ignorance |
| <i>ja'ir</i> | despot |
| <i>ja'iz</i> | permissible |
| <i>jami'at al-'ulama</i> | association of 'ulama' |
| <i>jariyya</i> | a female slave |
| <i>jazirat al-'arab</i> , <i>jazirat</i> <i>al-arabiyya</i> | the Arabian Peninsula |
| <i>jihad</i> | exertion, struggle for the way of God |
| <i>jihad 'amali</i> | practical <i>jihad</i> |
| <i>jihad daf'i</i> | defensive <i>jihad</i> |
| <i>jihad hadari</i> | civilisational struggle |
| <i>jihad madani</i> | a civil <i>jihad</i> |
| <i>jihad nadhari</i> | theoretical <i>jihad</i> |
| <i>jihad qitali</i> | military struggle |
| <i>jihad talab</i> | offensive <i>jihad</i> |
| <i>junun al-'adhama</i> | grandiose madness |
| <i>kaffara</i> | compensation in money or deeds |
| <i>kafir</i> (pl. <i>kafirun</i>) | unbeliever, blasphemous |
| <i>kahanut</i> | clergy |
| <i>al-kalima</i> | 'the word' |
| <i>khal'</i> | forcing a ruler to leave office |
| <i>al-khassa</i> | an elite minority |
| <i>khawarij al-'asr</i> | contemporary Kharijites |
| <i>al-khitab al-dini</i> | religious discourse |
| <i>khubth</i> | filth |
| <i>khuruj 'aqa'idi</i> | religious rebellion |
| <i>khuruj bi al-sayf</i> | violent rebellion |
| <i>khuruj siyasi</i> | political rebellion |

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| <i>khuruj ‘ala wali al-amr/</i> <i>khuruj ‘ala al-hakim</i> | rebellion against the ruler |
| <i>kitab</i> | book |
| <i>al-kitab wa ‘l-sunna</i> | the book and the deeds of the Prophet |
| <i>kitman</i> | concealing God’s message as revealed in the Quran |
| <i>kufr</i> | unbelief, blasphemy |
| <i>kufr bawwah/kufran bawahan</i> | obvious blasphemy |
| <i>ma‘ahid</i> | institutes |
| <i>ma‘asi</i> | minor sins |
| <i>madhhab</i> (pl. <i>madhahib</i>) | school of jurisprudence |
| <i>madrasa</i> | school |
| <i>mafahim</i> | understanding |
| <i>mahram</i> | male guardian |
| <i>maharim</i> | forbidden women (close relatives such as mother, sister etc.) |
| <i>majlis</i> | meeting, council, study circle |
| <i>majlis al-hizwar al-watani</i> | National Dialogue Forum |
| <i>majlis nuwab</i> | a parliament |
| <i>majlis al-shura</i> | consultative council |
| <i>maqasid al-shari‘a</i> | the objectives of <i>shari‘a</i> |
| <i>ma‘ruf</i> | that which is known in <i>shari‘a</i> |
| <i>mashaykh al-haydh</i> | ‘the sheikhs of menstruation’ |
| <i>ma‘siyya</i> | sins |
| <i>maslaha</i> | interest, public good |
| <i>mawada</i> | affection |
| <i>al-mawruth al-ijtima‘i</i> | inherited social tradition |
| <i>millat al-kufr</i> | the religion of blasphemy |
| <i>mithaq</i> | treaty |
| <i>mu‘ahadin</i> | infidels enjoying a protected contractual relationship with Muslims |
| <i>mu‘amalat ja‘iza</i> | permissible relationship |
| <i>al-mu‘awal</i> | interpreted religious discourse |
| <i>mubdi‘un</i> | innovators |
| <i>mubiqat</i> | grave sins |
| <i>mufakir Islami</i> | a Muslim thinker |
| <i>mufaraqat al-hayat</i> | leaving life |
| <i>mufti</i> | jurisconsult, highest religious authority |
| <i>al-muhajirun</i> | the Muslims who migrated from Mecca with the Prophet |
| <i>mujahidun</i> | Jihadis |
| <i>mujtahid</i> | scholar entitled to give individual opinions |

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| <i>mukataba</i> | writing (to the ruler) |
| <i>mukhalafat</i> | errors |
| <i>mulhid</i> | atheist |
| <i>mulk</i> | kingship |
| <i>munafiq</i> (pl. <i>munafiqun</i>) | hypocrite |
| <i>munathirun</i> | armchair theoreticians |
| <i>al-munazal</i> | revealed religious discourse |
| <i>munkar</i> | evil |
| <i>muqalid</i> | follower of a previous generation of scholars |
| <i>murabitun</i> ‘ <i>ala al-thugur</i> | ‘tied to the battlefield’ |
| <i>murtadd</i> | apostate |
| <i>mush‘awithun</i> | charlatans |
| <i>mushrik</i> (pl. <i>mushrikun</i>) | polytheists, blasphemers |
| <i>al-mustabid al-‘adil</i> | a just despot |
| <i>mustahab</i> | desirable |
| <i>mustawtanat</i> | (colonial) settlements |
| <i>mut‘a</i> | temporary marriage |
| <i>mutadayin</i> | religious, observant |
| <i>mutawwa</i> (pl. <i>mutawwa‘a</i>) | religious specialist |
| <i>mutawwawin</i> | low-ranking Wahhabi preachers |
| <i>muthaqaf</i> | intellectual associated with acquiring Western knowledge |
| <i>muwahhidun</i> | monotheists |
| <i>muwalat</i> | an affectionate relationship with infidels |
| <i>najs</i> | impure, polluting |
| <i>naqidh lil islam</i> (pl. <i>nawaqidh al-Islam</i>) | that which removes a Muslim from the religious community and Islam |
| <i>naql</i> | tradition |
| <i>nashid</i> | songs |
| <i>nasiha</i> | advice |
| <i>nidham</i> | new legislation |
| <i>nidham kufr</i> | a blasphemous regime |
| <i>nifaq</i> | hypocrisy |
| <i>nifaq ‘amali</i> | practical hypocrisy |
| <i>nifaq ‘aqadi</i> | ‘creed’ hypocrisy |
| <i>ni‘ma</i> | grace |
| <i>nukhba</i> | elite |
| <i>al-nukhba al-fikriyya</i> | intellectual elite |
| <i>qadi</i> | judge |
| <i>qahr</i> | coercion |
| <i>qa‘idun</i> | those left behind (lit. ‘sitting’) |

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| <i>qawī</i> | strong |
| <i>qiyas</i> | deduction by analogy |
| <i>quburi</i> | grave-worshipper |
| <i>al-quṣwa al-mutadharira</i> | those who are hurt by reform |
| <i>rafidha</i> | rejectionists |
| <i>rahat</i> | crowd |
| <i>raʿiyya</i> | subjects |
| <i>rijal din</i> | clergy |
| <i>sabb</i> | insult |
| <i>sad al-tharaʿi</i> | prohibition of acts that might violate the law (lit. 'blocking the means') |
| <i>al-sahabiyyat</i> | early Muslim women |
| <i>sahwa</i> | awakening |
| <i>al-salaf al-salih</i> | pious ancestors |
| <i>al-shaʿb</i> | the people |
| <i>shabab</i> | youth |
| <i>shabab al-sahwa</i> | the youth of the awakening |
| <i>al-shahada</i> | the Muslim declaration of faith |
| <i>al-shaʿn al-ʿam</i> | public affairs |
| <i>shariʿa</i> | Islamic legal codes and rules |
| <i>sheikh</i> | tribal leader, religious scholar, notable |
| <i>shirk</i> | blasphemy, heresy, polytheism |
| <i>shirk asghar</i> | 'the minor association', a lesser blasphemy |
| <i>shirk akbar</i> | 'the great association', a major blasphemy |
| <i>shirk jadid</i> | new blasphemy |
| <i>shubuhāt</i> (sg. <i>shubuha</i>) | misguided opinions |
| <i>shura</i> | consultation |
| <i>sunna</i> | tradition of the Prophet (words and deeds) |
| <i>sura</i> | Quranic verse |
| <i>taʿasub</i> | fanaticism |
| <i>taghut</i> (pl. <i>tawaghit</i>) | despot, idol |
| <i>tahkim al-sharʿ</i> | application of <i>shariʿa</i> |
| <i>taʿiyyin</i> | the appointment of a successor by the current ruler (hereditary rule) |
| <i>tajdid al-khitab al-dini</i> | renewing religious discourse |
| <i>takfir</i> | excommunication |
| <i>takfir al-muʿayan</i> | the excommunication of an individual |
| <i>takfir al-mujtamaʿ</i> | the excommunication of an entire society |
| <i>takfir al-ʿumum</i> | mass excommunication |
| <i>tamasuh</i> | touching |
| <i>tanbih</i> | to alert |
| <i>taraf fikhri</i> | intellectual luxury |

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| <i>taraju‘at</i> | going back on previous opinions, repentance |
| <i>taraju‘at qasriyya</i> | forced repentance |
| <i>tarasubat wa tarakumat</i> | social norms |
| <i>ijtima‘iyya</i> | |
| <i>tari‘</i> | temporary, accidental |
| <i>tariqa</i> (pl. <i>turuq</i>) | Sufi way |
| <i>tarikh</i> | history |
| <i>tashabuh bi ‘l-kuffar</i> | imitating infidels |
| <i>al-tatarus bi ‘l-nisa</i> | using women as human shields in time of combat |
| <i>tatbiqat</i> | application |
| <i>ta‘til faridhat al-jihad</i> | suspending the obligation of <i>jihad</i> |
| <i>tawba</i> | repentance |
| <i>tawhid</i> | doctrine of the oneness of God |
| <i>ta‘wil</i> | interpretation |
| <i>tawwali</i> | subservience through loyalty |
| <i>tawwali al-kuffar</i> | subservience to infidels |
| <i>tayar</i> | movement |
| <i>tayar al-haraki</i> | organised Islamist movement |
| <i>tazkiyat al-hakim</i> | praising the ruler |
| <i>tazkiyya</i> | an approval certificate |
| <i>thaqafat al-jihad</i> | a culture of <i>jihad</i> |
| <i>thawb</i> | male robes |
| <i>thulathi al-takfir</i> | trinity of excommunication |
| <i>tughyan</i> | oppression, despotism |
| <i>turath</i> | heritage |
| <i>‘ulama</i> (sing. <i>‘alim</i>) | religious scholar, scientist |
| <i>‘ulama al-sultan</i> | the religious establishment |
| <i>uli al-amr</i> | those charged with authority |
| <i>‘ulum shari‘yya</i> | religious knowledge |
| <i>‘umala</i> | traitors |
| <i>umami</i> | global |
| <i>umma</i> | Muslim community |
| <i>al-umma al-muntasira</i> | ‘the victorious party’ |
| <i>‘umra</i> | minor pilgrimage |
| <i>al-‘unsor al-da‘if</i> | the weak element |
| <i>‘unsoriyya</i> | racist |
| <i>‘uqal</i> | head-rope |
| <i>‘uyub</i> | faults, shameful behaviour |
| <i>wala‘</i> | association, loyalty |
| <i>al-wala‘ wa ‘l-bara‘</i> | association with Muslims and dissociation from infidels |

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| <i>wali al-amr</i> (pl. <i>wulat al-amr</i>) | ruler, the one who is in charge of affairs |
| <i>warathat al-anbiya'</i> | heirs of the Prophets |
| <i>wasat</i> (n. <i>wasatiyya</i>) | centrist |
| <i>watan</i> | homeland |
| <i>wataniyya</i> | citizenship |
| <i>wilaya 'ama</i> | high leadership |
| <i>yahsum al-khiyar</i> | a final resolution |
| <i>zaffa</i> | wedding celebration |
| <i>zaffat al-shahid</i> | celebration of a martyr |
| <i>zakat</i> | Islamic tax |
| <i>zawaj al-misyar</i> | 'visiting marriage', a marriage without formal obligations |
| <i>ziyara</i> | visit |



Map 1. Saudi Arabia, main regions and cities.

Source: F. Clements, *Saudi Arabia*, *World Bibliographical Series* (Oxford: Clio Press, 1979; reprinted 1988). Courtesy of Clio Press.