

## Christianity in Fifteenth-Century Iraq

Christians in fifteenth-century Iraq and al-Jazīra were socially and culturally at home in the Middle East, practicing their distinctive religion despite political instability. This insightful book challenges the normative Eurocentrism of scholarship on Christianity and the Islamic exceptionalism of much Middle Eastern history to reveal the often unexpected ways in which interreligious interactions were peaceful or violent in this region. The multifaceted communal self-concept of the “Church of the East” (so-called “Nestorians”) reveals cultural integration, with certain distinctive features. The process of patriarchal succession clearly borrowed ideas from surrounding Christian and Muslim groups, while public rituals and communal history reveal specifically Christian responses to concerns shared with Muslim neighbors. Drawing on sources from various languages, including Arabic, Armenian, Persian, and Syriac sources, this book opens new possibilities for understanding the rich, diverse, and fascinating society and culture that existed in Iraq during this time.

**Thomas A. Carlson** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. He holds a PhD in History from Princeton University, and is the coeditor of an online geographic reference tool for Syriac culture, *The Syriac Gazetteer*.

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# Christianity in Fifteenth-Century Iraq

THOMAS A. CARLSON  
*Oklahoma State University*



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<sup>1</sup> ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܠܐܘܘܢܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ ܡܫܘܒܬܐ: Cambridge Add. 1965, f. 257b.

## Notes on Transliteration, Names, and Dates

Arabic and Persian have been transliterated according to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* system, substituting *j* for *dj* and *q* for *k*, and omitting underlining of digraphs. No distinction has been made for Persian vowels. Armenian has been transliterated according to the US Library of Congress system. Syriac does not have a widely standardized transliteration scheme; I have used the following to maximize consistency with the Arabic and Persian transliteration:

Syriac consonants:

ܐ	ܒ	ܓ	ܕ	ܗ	ܘ	ܙ	ܚ	ܛ	ܝ	ܩ	ܠ
'	b	g	d	h	w	z	ḥ	ṭ	y	k	l
ܡ	ܢ	ܣ	ܥ	ܦ	ܩ	ܫ	ܩ	ܪ	ܫܗ	ܬ	
m	n	s	'	p	f	ṣ	q	r	sh	T	

Eastern vowels:

ܒܐ	ܒܐ̄	ܒܐܝ	ܒܐܝܝ	ܒܐܝܝܝ	ܒܐܝܝܝܝ	ܒܐܝܝܝܝܝܝ	ܒܐܝܝܝܝܝܝܝܝ
ba	bā	be	bē	bē	bī/bi	bō/bo	bū/bu

Western vowels:

ܒܐ	ܒܐ	ܒܐ	ܒܐ̄	ܒܐ̄	ܒܐܝܝܝ	ܒܐܝܝܝܝ
ba	bo	be	bē	bē	bī/bi	bū/bu

Although Syriac does not mark double consonants, the transliteration includes them where etymologically warranted. An inserted *h* indicates aspirantization. I have not regularized spellings or punctuation in transcriptions from manuscript sources.

xii      Notes on Transliteration, Names, and Dates

It is impossible to choose politically neutral and linguistically defensible spellings for all proper names from fifteenth-century al-Jazīra. For places and people with sufficiently widely known modern English spellings, I have typically followed that usage; otherwise I have transliterated them precisely from whichever language seemed appropriate. Some Christian names appear as their English cognates (e.g. Timothy instead of Ṭīmāthē'ōs), while others have retained their Semitic form (e.g. Yōḥannān instead of John). In any case, I have attempted to spell each person's or place's name consistently throughout the text (except when quoting from other scholarship). I have similarly used the modern "Bey" in place of the various spellings in fifteenth-century sources.

A plethora of calendars marked time in fifteenth-century Iraq and al-Jazīra. For consistency, I have used Common Era dates throughout, yet when a primary source records a date, that is inserted before the Common Era equivalent. An abbreviation identifies the Middle Eastern calendar used in each case.

## Abbreviations

AA	Armenian calendar
Add.	Additional Manuscript
AG	Seleucid calendar (“Year of the Greeks”)
AH	Islamic ( <i>hijrī</i> ) calendar
Ar.	Arabic
b.	bin (Arabic) or bar (Syriac)
Berlin	Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
BL	British Library
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale de France
Bodl.	Bodleian Library, Oxford University
Cambridge	Cambridge University Library
<i>EI2</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition</i>
f./ff.	folio(s)
fn./fnn.	footnote(s)
fol.	folio manuscript
<i>GEDSH</i>	<i>Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage</i>
HMML CCM	Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, Chaldean Cathedral of Mosul collection
l./ll.	line(s)
ms./mss.	manuscript(s)
Or.	oriental
orient.	oriental
p./pp.	page(s)
Pers.	Persian
Princeton	Princeton University Firestone Library
quart.	quarto manuscript

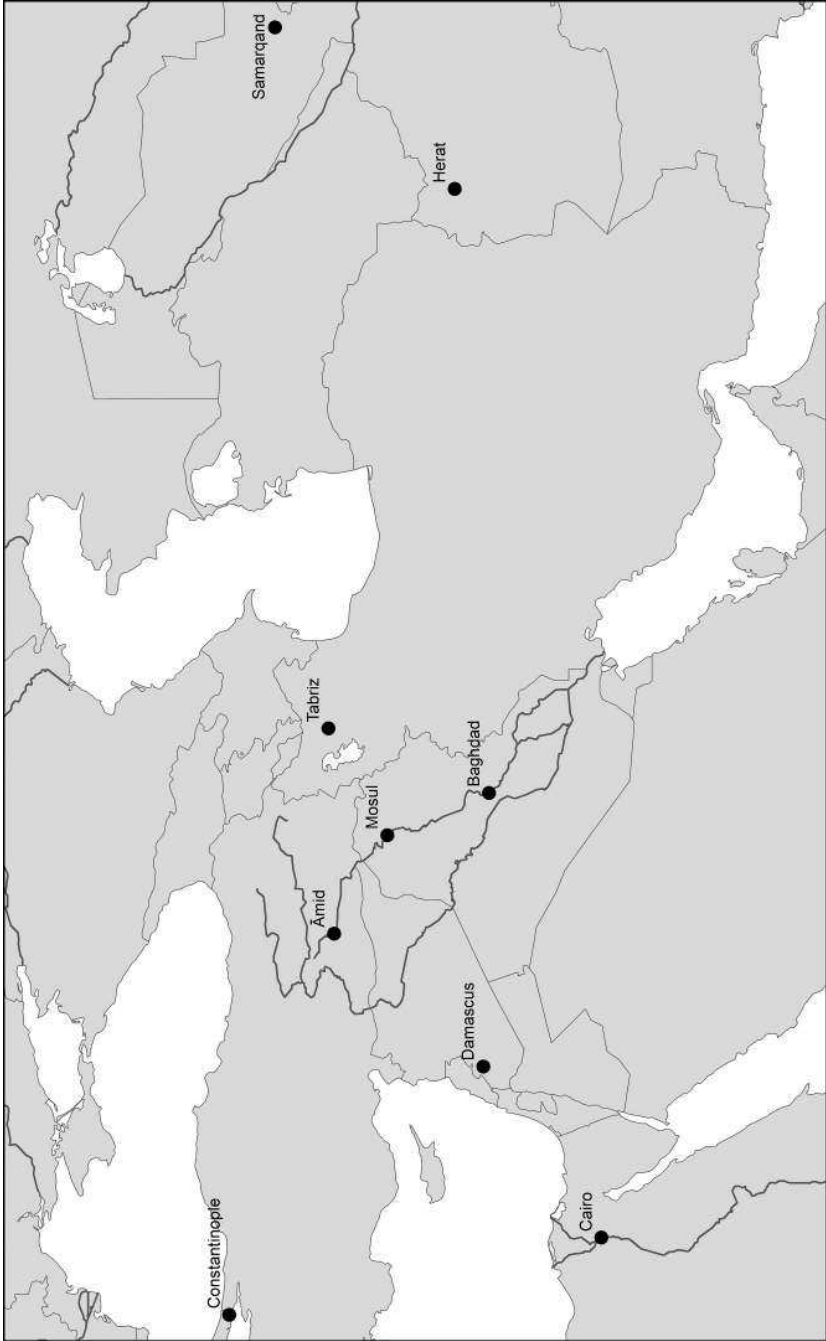
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sir.	siriaco
Syr.	Syriac
Trichur	Church of the East Metropolitan's Library, Trichur, Kerala, India
Vatican	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

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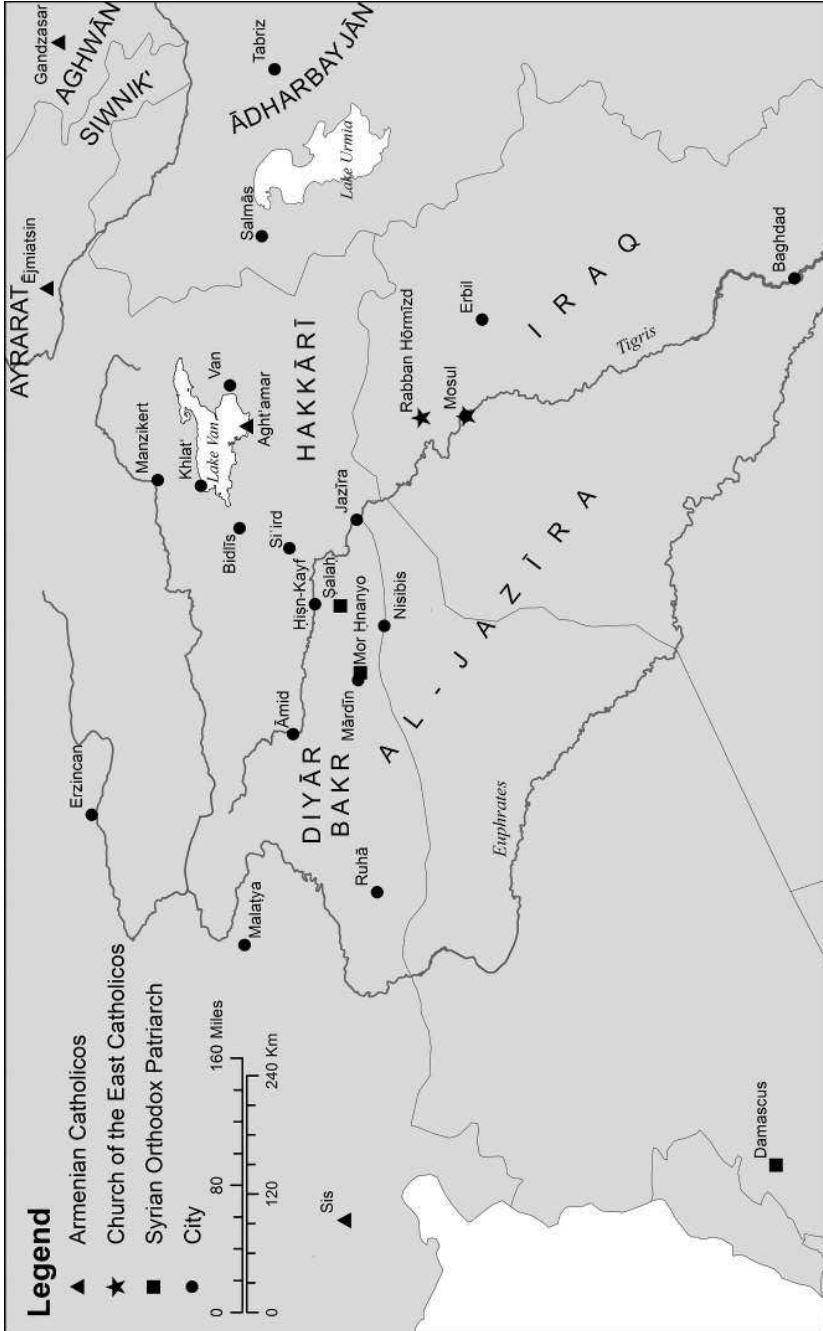
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## Maps



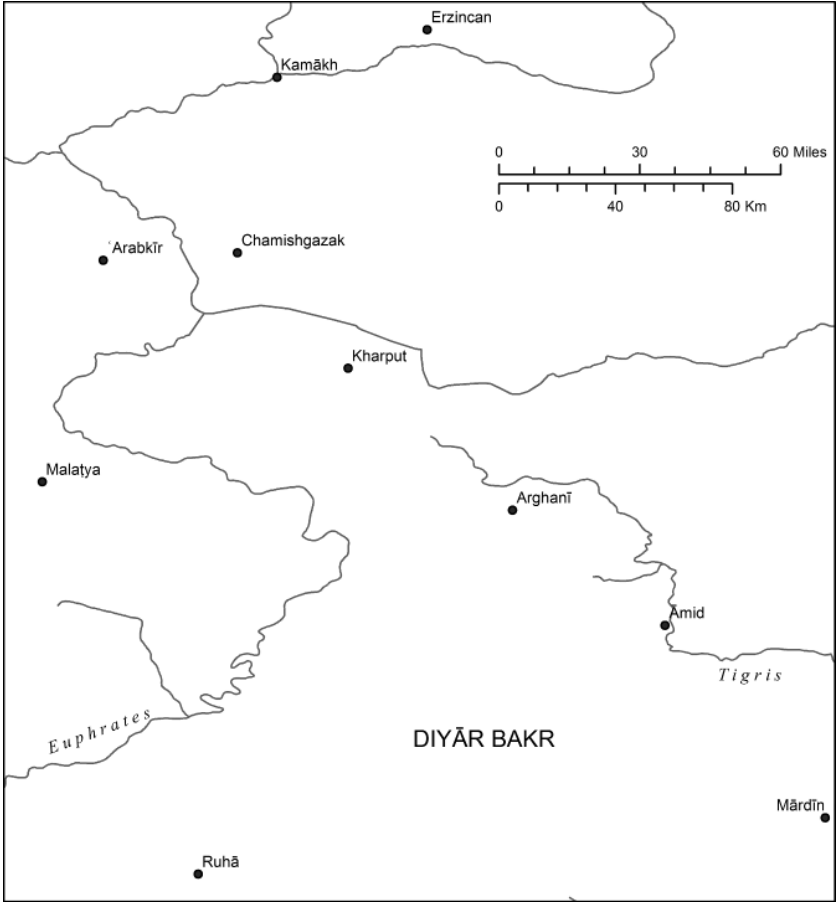
1 Imperial and regional capitals



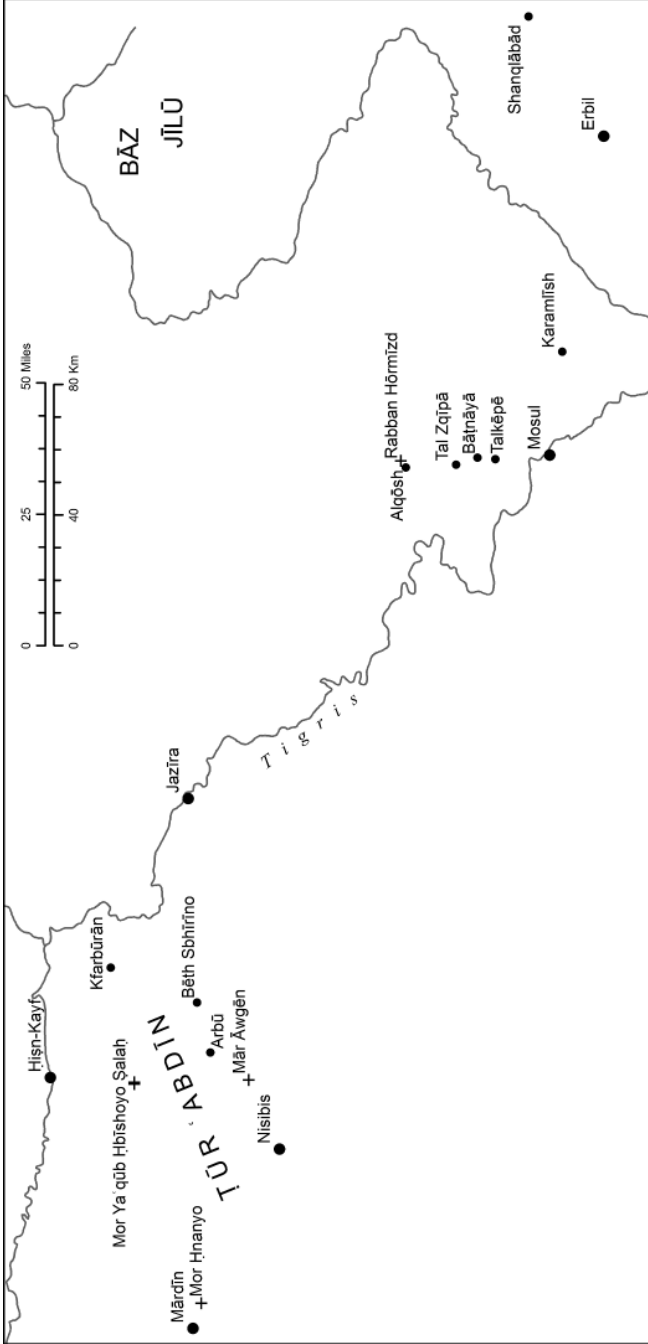


2 Cities and patriarchates

xviii List of Maps

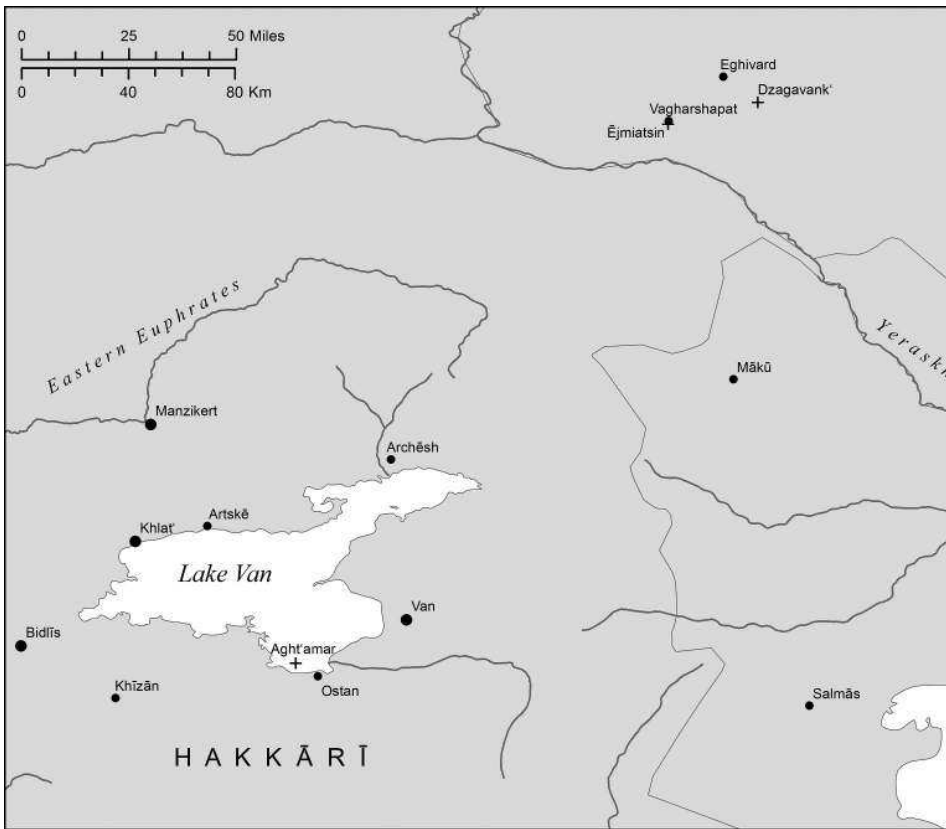


3 Diyar Bakr and Eastern Anatolia



4 Mosul Plain and Tūr 'Abdīn

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