Acknowledgements

I started active research on this book in September 2006, but it has been a work-in-progress for the last four decades. It synthesizes various revisions in my thinking on the subject during this period. All along I have benefited from writings, discussions, correspondence and personal interactions with various scholars. I have also benefited from question–answer sessions at numerous presentations where I put forward my ideas. During the process I have learnt from the ideas and criticism of numerous writers, thinkers and participants at my lecture-sessions. It is impossible to name all of them. However, I am deeply indebted to them all.

Several scholars spared the time to review a draft of the book. I consider myself fortunate that Professor Muhammad Nejatullah Siddiqi, the undisputed imam and widely acclaimed founding father of Islamic economics, found time to review the manuscript. He made several critical comments and valuable suggestions. I have benefited from his comments and suggestions immensely and express my heart-felt gratitude to him. Professor Rodney Wilson (Adjunct Professor, Durham University, UK) gave encouraging remarks after reviewing parts of the book. Professor Volker Nienhaus (former President of Marburg University, Germany and Adjunct Professor, INCEIF, Malaysia) made a number of highly insightful comments about my overall thesis and on the presentation and format of the book. I have benefited from his comments and thank him from the core of my heart. Professor Muhammad Anwar (Adjunct Professor, Framingham State University, USA) spared the time to review about half of the manuscript. He made several incisive comments and gave thought-provoking criticism. I have taken note of his comments and criticism and express my deep appreciation. Professor Syed Abdul Hamid al-Junaid (INCEIF, Malaysia), despite his extremely busy schedule, was able to review a draft of the book and made several significant remarks. In finalizing the draft I have kept his suggestions in view. I am thankful to him.

My thanks are also due to Professor Iram Khan of COMSATS Institute of Information and Technology (Islamabad, Pakistan), who took pains to go through the whole manuscript in detail and pointed out several changes. He challenged some of my thoughts and obliged me to refine my presentation at various places.
I express my thanks to my friend, the scientist and Islamic scholar Tahir Saleem Dogar, who reviewed parts of the draft and raised serious questions on some of my formulations. I am indebted to my elder brother, scientist and mentor, Dr Mushtaq Ahmed, who has always been a source of inspiration and encouragement for me. He took extraordinary pains to review the entire draft minutely and spotted several editorial and formatting errors, besides questioning some of my ideas. His criticism obliged me to make several changes in the manuscript.

During the years I was working on this book (2006–11), Mr Dost Muhammad and his illustrious son Mr Nasrullah, proprietors of the largest book store in Pakistan, Allied Book Company, were of great help. They not only always gave me an alert on any new resource on Islamic economics and finance but also provided prompt access to it with smiling faces. I thank them for their generosity.

I need not say that only I am responsible for any errors, omissions or weaknesses in the book.