Preface

The present study explores and analyzes economic ideas of Muslim scholars up to the fifteenth century and defines various phases of the development of economic thought in Islam. It seeks to determine their role in the evolution of mainstream economics and to find out their impact on the scholastic scholars and mercantilists. It also discusses various channels through which their ideas reached the European West and served as the link between Greek philosophers and scholastic economists. It provides materials that can be used to make up existing deficiency – the great gap in evolution of economic thought – persisting in the literature on the subject.

An earlier work on this subject by this author was published about a decade ago under the title *Contributions of Muslim Scholars to Economic Thought and Analysis*. The present study, though it follows the structure and approach of the original work, incorporates new information, improves many ideas and develops some parts of the earlier work. In particular, I have made considerable additions in the last three chapters of the book which enhance achieving the objective of this line of study. I have also updated and greatly increased citations to books in the bibliography. Most importantly, I have added many new names of past scholars and their works which I came across after publication of my earlier book. They are now over 100 in total. I hope inclusion of additional references on the subject will help readers as well as promote further interest and research in this area which has not been paid proper attention in the past. I have adopted an eclectic approach in this study and hope that this will generate curiosity among the readers to further investigate and carry deep and detailed study of the works of past scholars. It may also draw their attention to the works of Muslim scholars in later centuries that largely remain unexplored.

It is both customary and proper for an author to thank those who assisted him and at the same time to absolve them of any responsibility for remaining errors. Unfortunately, it is no longer feasible to list the names of all those people who have helped me out with their expertise and knowledge at various stages of this work. However, I wish to thank in particular Professor Muhammad Nejatullah Siddiqi, Professor Ishtiaq Ahmad Zilli and Professor Munawar Iqbal. I must also express my gratitude

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All praise belongs to Allah and Allah alone. I bow my head before Him in gratitude for enabling me to complete this work.

Abdul Azim Islahi

Jeddah

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