This book is the revised version of my doctoral dissertation ‘Matrimonial Problems of Islamic Law in Contemporary Afghanistan’ which I completed at London University in 1976. Major changes have been made in the introduction, the section on constitutional law, and minor alterations in other sections. In general, the work has been compressed and certain sections and all appendices have been either omitted or incorporated into the text for reasons of space. Certain sections, however, have been expanded in the light of new material which became available to me after 1976. The greater part of the changes which have been made are due to the promulgation of two new constitutions and a civil code in Afghanistan during the subsequent years. The main effect of this new legislation was that parts of the original thesis which referred to the law that was in force at the time became outdated. The relevant points of the new laws were, therefore, incorporated.

One area which required substantial changes both in format and content has been that of constitutional law which was discussed in the original work as and when it related to the issues under consideration. In the present work, I have devoted a separate section to the constitutions of Afghanistan in which I have focused attention on some of the issues which relate to Islam and its legal doctrines especially after the coming into power of a Marxist regime in 1978. This led in 1980 to the introduction of a provisional constitution which sought to build a new political and social order in Afghanistan, and gave rise to new questions which were of fundamental importance and warranted particular attention.

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