

Contents

Foreword	ix
1 On the Way to the Modern	1
The Tradition of Reform Islam	1
Secularism and Islamism	5
2 Islamic Reformers Today	12
Post-Islamism	12
Islamic Feminism	15
Men on the side of Women	20
Islam in and for Europe	27
Criticism as Self-Criticism	31
3 Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid: Who's the Heretic here?	35
A Born Conqueror	35
Africa, America, Asia	39
Severance from the Homeland	42
The Word of God	46
Does God Speak Arabic?	54
Disaster Politics	57
Scholarship: The Personal is Political	62
4 Fazlur Rahman: from the Qur'an to Life, and Back Again to the Qur'an	66
A Traditional Scholar	66

The Decline of Muslim Societies	71
The Dictation Theory	74
The Qur'an as an Ethical Guide	76
The People of the Book	78
Reception and Criticism	85
5 Amina Wadud: In the Midst of the Gender Jihad	88
A Muslim by Conviction	88
Why Islam?	90
Female, Muslim, Black	94
Gender in the Qur'an	100
What does the Qur'an Say to Us Today?	107
Perspectives of Islamic Feminism	112
6 Asma Barlas: As Though Only Men Were Objective	117
A Eurocentric View of Islam	117
The Patriarchal Interpretation of the Qur'an	120
Islamic Feminism?	124
As a Muslim Woman in the USA	126
Liberation Theology	128
The Appeal for Another Image of God	133
Will the Best Interpretation Prevail?	136
7 'Abdolkarim Soroush: More than Ideology and State	140
A Revolutionary in the Name of Islam	140
From Court Theologian to Dissident	142
The Variability of Religious Knowledge	147
A Religious and Democratic Government	152
Against the Ideologization of Religion	157
Whose Qur'an?	160
8 Mohammad Mojtahed Shabestari: The Prophet Reads the World	168
Tradition and the Break with it	168
As a Cleric in Hamburg	170

<i>Truth and Method</i> in Iran	174
The Reception of Protestant Theology	181
Political Movements in Religious Garb	183
A Prophetic Reading of the World	188
The Qur'an as Narrative	195
The Future of Islam	199
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	202
<i>Bibliography</i>	203
<i>Glossary</i>	214
<i>Index of Persons</i>	217