

## **Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, PhD**

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### *Curriculum Vitae*

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Ambassador Akbar Ahmed is the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University in Washington, DC. Ahmed's career has included distinguished posts in both academia and public service. Highlights from the past four decades of Ahmed's academic career include appointments such as Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; the First Distinguished Chair of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD; the Iqbal Fellow (Chair in Pakistan Studies) and Fellow of Selwyn College at the University of Cambridge; and teaching positions at Harvard and Princeton Universities. Ahmed dedicated more than three decades to the Civil Service of Pakistan, where his posts included Commissioner in Balochistan, Political Agent in the Tribal Areas, and Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK and Ireland. Ahmed's expertise has earned high praise around the world. The BBC called him, "The world's leading authority on contemporary Islam," and the *Saudi Gazette* lauded him as, "Perhaps the most influential living authority on contemporary Muslim societies." Dr. Zulfiqar Kazmi called him "the Rumi of our age" in his speech at the PAKPAC Iftar presenting Ahmed with the Annual Award. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf described him as a "Muslim treasure himself." He has made great contributions to interfaith dialogue, with Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the late Chief Rabbi of the UK, writing in one of his last tweets, "Thank you, my dear friend, I so value our friendship, and I admire your work and everything you do to build bridges between the Abrahamic faiths and society. You are a blessing to us all!" Dr. Lord Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, described him as "perhaps the most distinguished and versatile Muslim scholar in the English-speaking world today." Professor Stanley Wolpert, the renowned American historian, introduced Ahmed thus: "Akbar Ahmed is the greatest scholar of Islam in America and the world...nobody else stands so high...he is the Dara Shikoh of modern Islamic leaders."

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**Education**

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- 2013 Honorary Doctorate, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan.
- 2007 Honorary Doctor of Laws, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK.
- 1994 Master of Arts, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 1978 Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, London, UK.
- 1965 Diploma Education, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK (2 Distinctions).
- 1964 Bachelor of Social Sciences, Honors, Birmingham University, Birmingham, UK (Economics and Sociology).
- 1961 Bachelor of Arts, Punjab University, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan (Gold Medal: History and English).
- 1959 Higher Senior Cambridge (4 'A' levels, 2 Distinctions), Burn Hall, Abbottabad.
- 1957 Senior Cambridge (1st Division, 4 Distinctions), Burn Hall, Abbottabad.

**Professional Appointments**

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- 2021 Member, Advisory Board, Centre of Excellence: Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.
- 2012 Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK (Michaelmas Term).
- 2009-2011 Distinguished Visiting Affiliate, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
- 2008-2009 First Distinguished Chair for Middle East/Islamic Studies, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
- 2006-2013 Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.
- 2005-2006 Visiting Fellow at Brookings Institution, Washington DC -- Principal Investigator for "Islam in the Age of Globalization", a project supported by American University, The Brookings Institution, and The Pew Research Center.
- 2001- Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies and Professor of International Relations, School of International Service, American University, Washington DC.
- 2001- Trustee, World Faiths Development Dialogue (formed by Archbishop of Canterbury and President of the World Bank).
- 2000-2001 Visiting Professor, Department of Anthropology, and Stewart Fellow of the Humanities Council at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- 1999-2000 High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Kingdom and Ireland.

- 1988-1999 Fellow of Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 1988-1993 Iqbal Fellow (Chair in Pakistan Studies), University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 1984-1988 Commissioner of three Divisions in Baluchistan, Pakistan: Makran, Sibi, Quetta.
- 1982-1984 Founder Director-General of the National Center for Rural Development, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 1982-2000 Affiliate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- 1981-1982 Visiting Professor, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 1980-1981 Visiting Professor, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- 1978-1980 Political Agent, South Waziristan Agency, Government of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), Pakistan.
- 1977-1978 Ford Foundation Fellow, University of London, London, UK. Final year, PhD.
- 1976-2007 Expert, Department of Anthropology, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 1976-1977 Political Agent Orakzai Agency, Government of North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), Pakistan.
- 1975-1976 Instructor, Rural Academy, Peshawar, NWFP/ Fieldwork among the Mohmand tribe for PhD studies.
- 1973-1974 Ford Foundation Fellow, University of London, London, UK. First year PhD.
- 1972-1974 Registrar, Cooperative Societies and President of the Cooperative Bank, NWFP.
- 1971-1972 Deputy Secretary/Additional Secretary, Home and Tribal Affairs, Government of NWFP, Peshawar.
- 1971 Deputy Secretary, Services and General Administration, Government of East Pakistan, Dacca.
- 1968-1971 Assistant Commissioner: Abbottabad, Okara, Mansehra, Mymensingh, Manikganj.
- 1996-2001 Member of the Civil Service of Pakistan, the senior-most service of the Central Superior Services of Pakistan.

## Books

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- 2021 *The Flying Man, Aristotle, and the Philosophers of the Golden Age of Islam: Their Relevance Today*, Amana Publications: Ellicott City, MD. Republished Vanguard Press: Lahore.
- 2020 *Mataloona and Mizh: Pukhtun Proverbs and a Frontier Classic*, Oxford University Press.
- 2018 *Journey into Europe: Islam, Immigration, and Identity*, Brookings Press: Washington, DC. Reprinted by Oxford University Press: Pakistan, 2019.
- 2013 *The Thistle and the Drone: How America's War on Terror Became A Global War On Tribal Islam*, Brookings Press: Washington, DC. Reprinted by HarperCollins: India, 2013.
- 2011 *Suspended Somewhere Between*, Busboys and Poets Press: Washington DC, and PM Press, Oakland, California.
- 2010 *The Sage Handbook of Islamic Studies*, co-edited with Tamara Sonn, Sage Publications Ltd: London.
- 2010 *Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam*, Brookings Press: Washington, DC.
- 2009 *Two Plays*, Saqi Books: London.
- 2007 *Journey into Islam: The Crisis of Globalization*, Brookings Press: Washington, DC. Reprinted Penguin: India, 2007.
- 2005 *After Terror: Promoting the Dialogue of Civilizations*, co-edited with Brian Forst, Polity Press: Cambridge, UK.
- 2003 *Islam Under Siege: Living Dangerously in a Post-Honor World*, Polity Press: Cambridge, UK.
- 1999 *Islam Today: A Short Introduction to the Muslim World*, I.B. Tauris: London. Revised and reprinted, 2002.
- 1997 *Jinnah, Pakistan and Islamic Identity: The Search for Saladin*, Routledge: London. Reprinted Oxford University Press: Karachi, 2009.
- 1997 *The Quaid: Jinnah and the Story of Pakistan (the Graphic Novel)*, Oxford University Press: Karachi. President's Award for best book on Quaid, Iqbal and Pakistan, 1998 (Pakistan).
- 1995 *The Future of Anthropology: Its Relevance to the Contemporary World*, edited with Cris Shore, Athlone: University of London.
- 1994 *Islam, Globalization and Postmodernity*, edited with Professor Hastings Donnan. Routledge: London.
- 1993 *Living Islam: From Samarkand to Stornoway*, BBC Books: London. Republished by Facts on File: USA, 1994; Special Edition for unit/formation libraries, Army Education Press: Pakistan, 1994; Penguin Books, paperback edition, 1995.
- 1992 *Postmodernism and Islam*, Routledge: London. Nominated for the Amalfi Award. Revised and reprinted Penguin: India, 2004. Republished by Routledge , 2004.
- 1990 *Pakistan: The Social Sciences Perspective*, Oxford University Press: Karachi.

- 1988 *Discovering Islam: Making Sense of Muslim History and Society*, Routledge: London. Reprinted in Pakistan and India. New edition Routledge: London, with Introduction by Professor Lawrence Rosen of Princeton University, 2002.
- 1986 *Toward Islamic Anthropology: Definition, Dogma and Directions*, International Institute of Islamic Thought: USA; Vanguard Books: Pakistan, 1987; Reprinted *The Anthropology of Islam Reader*, edited by Jens Kreinath, Routledge: London, 2011.
- 1986 *Pakistan Society: Islam, Ethnicity and Leadership in South Asia*, Oxford University Press: Oxford. Reprinted in India. Reprinted Oxford Pakistan Paperbacks, 1997.
- 1984 *Islam in Tribal Societies: From the Atlas to the Indus*, edited with David Hart, Routledge and Kegan Paul: London.
- 1983 *Religion and Politics in Muslim Society: Order and Conflict in Waziristan*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. Reprinted as *Resistance and Control in Pakistan*, Routledge: London, 1991. Revised and republished Routledge, 2004.
- 1980 *Pukhtun Economy and Society: Traditional Structure and Economic Development in a Tribal Society*, Routledge: London, 1980. Routledge Revival, 2011. ("Restoring to print books by some of the most influential academic scholars of the last 120 years").
- 1977 *Pieces of Green: The Sociology of Change in Pakistan*, Royal Book Co: Karachi.
- 1976 *Millennium and Charisma among Pathans: A Critical Essay in Social Anthropology*, Routledge and Kegan Paul: London. Paperback edition 1980. Translated and published in Pukhto by Pukhto Academy, Peshawar University, 1978. First prize Urdu translation, Pakistan Writers' Guild and Abbasin Arts Council, 1985. Routledge Revival, 2011.
- 1975 *Mataloona: Pukhto Proverbs*, translated by Akbar Ahmed, Oxford University Press.

*Books have been translated into many languages including Arabic, Chinese, Turkish, Indonesian, Urdu, Pukhto, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Dutch.*

## **Plays**

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- 2021 *Gandhi and Jinnah Return Home* (under production).
- 2009- *The Trial of Dara Shikoh*, published by Saqi Books. Performed in Washington DC.
- 2007-2009 *Noor*, published by Saqi Books, Performed at Theatre J, Washington DC. (July 26), and The Katzen Arts Center, American University, Washington DC. (November 19-20).
- 2007- *Waziristan to Washington: A Muslim at the Crossroads*, Theatre J, Washington DC. (with Stephen Stern and John Milewski. One-man play on the life of Ahmed performed by him on various theatrical stages).

## Chapters, Articles, Reviews, and Forewords

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- 2021 "From Jerusalem to a Kingdom by the Sea," *Daily Times*, November 30.
- 2021 "Marching with the 18th Punjab Regiment," *Albilad Daily*, November 23
- 2021 "Orakzai," *Daily Times*, November 3.
- 2021 "A Defeat Foretold," *Albilad Daily*, August 21.
- 2021 "America Got Afghanistan Wrong, But It Can Still Make Things Right," *The National Interest*, August 21.
- 2021 "From Millionaires to Cleaners, Everyone is Equal during the Haj," *Daily Times*, October 19.
- 2021 "Gender, Revenge, Mutation, and War," Jude Browne (Ed.) *Why Gender?* Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, October 15.
- 2021 "How Can America Salvage its Prestige After the Kabul Debacle?" *Views&News*, August 18.
- 2021 "Ali, the Lion of God," *Daily Times*, July 19.
- 2021 "Babur and his Beloved Pathan Empress," *Daily Times*, July 15.
- 2021 "Golden Age of Islam and lessons for today," *Daily Times*, June 29.
- 2021 "Maimonides Sought Peace Between Jews and Muslims," *Tikkun.org*, May 24.
- 2021 "Reimagining India and Pakistan as Allies in the Post-Covid World," with Pawan Bali, *Albilad Daily*, April 22.
- 2001 "The Rambam—the man who can bring peace between Jews and Muslims," *Albilad Daily*, February 14.
- 2020 "What is it that I Seek?" *Views&News*, December 5.
- 2020 "What Kamala Harris means for the South Asian diaspora in America and America's South Asia Policy," with Amitav Acharya, *Daily Times*, November 14.
- 2020 "A mercy unto mankind," *Daily Times*, November 2.
- 2020 "The India-Pakistan Conundrum," *Daily Times*, October 28.
- 2020 "First Love – A Poem on Connection with Cambridge University," *Views&News*, October 3.
- 2020 "Swami Agnivesh: Champion of Humanity," *Daily Times*, September 13.
- 2020 "Discovering the Divine on a Deserted Island: The Fantastic Story of Hayy ibn Yaqdhan," *Daily Times*, August 25.
- 2020 "Nietzsche's Superman, Islam and Covid-19 - Naya Daur," *Daily Times*.
- 2020 "South Asia: Searching for Humanity in the Age of Madness," *South Asia Journal*, August 11.
- 2020 "Pakistan reinterpreted," *Albilad Daily*, August 2.
- 2020 "Sayeeda Warsi: A bridge between Islam and the West," *Albilad Daily*, July 21.
- 2020 "Life as a Pakistani Student in Europe Isn't the Same as It Used to Be in My Time." *Pakistan Link*, July 10.
- 2020 "An evening to remember," *Albilad Daily*, July 14.
- 2020 "Goethe's tribute to Islam," *Albilad Daily*, July 9.

- 2020 "Has Islam Contributed to Western Culture?," *Pakistan Link*, July 3.
- 2020 "Remembering The Wali of Swat," *Daily Times*, June 24.
- 2020 "The Battle for Pakistan," *Daily Times*, June 13.
- 2020 "A Conversation with Shuja Nawaz," *Daily Times*, June 6.
- 2020 "Dr Haris Silajdzic: The Muslim Philosopher-King of Europe," *Albilad Daily*, May 10
- 2020 "The triumph of ilm in the time of war," *Albilad Daily*, May 9.
- 2020 "A paeon to humanity in South Asia," *Daily Times*, May 4.
- 2020 "Religion in the time of the pandemic," *Daily Times*, April 17.
- 2020 "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White," *Albilad Daily*, March 29.
- 2020 "The Royal VISIT," *Daily Times*, January 4.
- 2019 "Warrior for the underdog," *Daily Times*, June 8.
- 2019 "Pakistan reinterpreted," *Daily Times*, November 25.
- 2019 "The Mingling of the Oceans," *Daily Times*, November 21.
- 2019 "A Deadly Enough Crisis To Forget MAGA For A Moment?," with Lawrence Wilkerson, Lobe Log, March,
- 2019 "Teacher to the World," *The Daily Times*, January 6.
- 2019 "Birmal and the Great Game," *The Daily Times*, January 19.
- 2018 "Competing Versions of Islam Will Shape Europe in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Conversation with David Frum, *The Atlantic*, May 1.
- 2018 "Afterword: A Reflection on the Crucial Importance of Interfaith Dialogue," *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, 16 (3), 114-118.
- 2017 Weekly column in the *Daily Times*, March 11-Present.
- 2017 "These Muslim Convert Stories Will Challenge Your Perspective of Islam," Series published by *The Huffington Post*, May 31-June 24.
- 2017 "If Trump Wants to Win in The Muslim World, He Needs o Know This History," *The Huffington Post*, March 7.
- 2016 "Khizr Khan: the rhino tamer of America," *The Express Tribune*, September 22.
- 2016 "Building Bridges in an uncomfortable time," *The Express Tribune*, August 15.
- 2016 "To Prevent More Attacks Like Nice, We Must Integrate Muslims, Not Simply Bomb ISIS," *The Huffington Post*, July 18.
- 2016 Akbar Ahmed and Edward Kessler. "Constructive Dialogue: A Muslim and Jewish Perspective on Dialogue between Islam and Judaism." In *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim-Jewish Relations*, edited by Josef Meri, 253-70. Routledge: New York, 2016.
- 2016 Akbar Ahmed and Stuart Weinblatt, "We Need to Bridge the Divide Between Jews and Muslims Now More Than Ever," *The Huffington Post*, April 28.
- 2015 "Life as a Pakistani Student in Europe Isn't the Same as It Used to Be in My Time," *The Huffington Post*, December 30.
- 2015 "We Can Avoid Another Paris and Defeat ISIS If We Remember This History," *The Huffington Post*, December 30.
- 2015 "Why Merkel's Kindness to Asylum Seekers Could Reflect a German Soft Spot for Islam," *The Huffington Post*, September 29.

- 2015 "As China Awakens, America -- And Pakistan -- Should Take Note," *The Huffington Post*, July 30.
- 2015 "What Europe Should Learn From Bosnia," *The Huffington Post*, June 30.
- 2015 "Some Right-Wing Europeans Say Islam Hasn't Contributed to Western Culture. Here's Why They're Wrong.," *The Huffington Post*, June 6.
- 2015 "To Understand Europe's Immigration Crisis, Listen to the Voiceless 'Illegals,'" *The Huffington Post*, April 22.
- 2015 "What Andalusia Can Teach Us Today About Muslims and Non-Muslims Living Together," *The Huffington Post*, April 17.
- 2015 "Why Right Now Is a Crucial Time for Islam in Europe," *The Huffington Post*, March 10.
- 2015 "The Best Place in the World to be a Muslim: America or Europe?," *The Islamic Monthly*, January 7.
- 2014 "Why Are European Muslims Joining ISIS?," *The Huffington Post*, November 17.
- 2014 "What Washington Doesn't Get About ISIS (Or is it ISIL?)," *Politico*, November 13.
- 2014 "Homecoming to Jinnah's Pakistan," *The Friday Times*, January 24-February 7—three-part weekly series.
- 2013 "Pakistan's Persecuted Christians," *The New York Times*, December 23.
- 2013 "Finding Peace Through Art," *Al Jazeera English*, October 12.
- 2013 "Salam and Salutation to Pope Francis," *The Washington Post*, October 8.
- 2013 "Mental Illness, Islam, or Revenge?: Understanding Terrorism from the Navy Yard to Pakistan to Kenya," *The Washington Post*, September 16.
- 2013 "Oromo and the War on Terror in the Horn of Africa," *Al Jazeera English*, July 16.
- 2013 "What the Abbottabad Report means for Pakistan," *Al Jazeera English*, July 11.
- 2013 "In Greece, A Case Study on Islam in Europe," *The Washington Post*, July 9.
- 2013 "The Spectre of Fascism in Greece," *Al Jazeera English*, July 9.
- 2013 "The Drone War is Far From Over," *The New York Times*, May 30.
- 2013 "US Should Replace Drone Strikes in Pakistan with Outreach to Tribal Areas," *Christian Science Monitor*, May 30.
- 2013 "Center vs. Periphery: The roots of terror," *The Jerusalem Post*, May 25.
- 2013 "Mr. Sein Goes to Washington: A call for lasting reform in Burma," *The Washington Post*, May 22.
- 2013 "Pakistan Elections and the Hope for Democracy," *Al Jazeera English*, May 9.
- 2013 "Making Enemies in Yemen," *Al Jazeera English*, May 5.
- 2013 "Dealing remote-control death, the US has lost its moral compass," with Lawrence Wilkerson, *The Guardian*, May 4.
- 2013 "Suu Kyi's Muslim moral dilemma," *Asia Times Online*, April 23.
- 2013 "Boston Bombings Show Muslims Between Worlds," *National Geographic News*, April 22.
- 2013 "Motive in Boston bombings: Look to tribal code of honor," *Christian Science Monitor*, April 22.
- 2013 "Wayward in Waziristan," *Foreign Policy*, March 15.



- 2013 "How The 'War on Terror' Became A War On 'Tribal Islam'," *NPR*, Author Interviews with Steve Inskeep, March 12.
- 2012-2013 Regular contributor: Author of a 15-part Op-Ed Series on Muslim peripheral communities, *Al Jazeera English*.
- 2012 "Aung San Suu Kyi, The Rohingya, and the Challenge of Faith," *The Washington Post*, October 24.
- 2012 "Hope at Lambeth Palace," *The Washington Post*, October 17.
- 2012 "Is Pakistan Headed for Disaster in Baluchistan?" *Al Jazeera English*, January 15.
- 2012 "Drama Lighting up Iraqi Lives," *Al Jazeera English*, January 9.
- 2012 "Imran Faces His Greatest Test," *Al Jazeera English*, January 2.
- 2011 "Why Jinnah Matters," *Pakistan: Beyond the Crisis State*, edited by Maleeha Lodhi. Columbia University Press: New York, 2011.
- 2011 "Little Help for the Persecuted Rohingya of Burma," *The Guardian*, December 1.
- 2011 "N.Y. Bomb Plot: What Radicalizes Some Converts to Islam?," *The Washington Post*, November 21.
- 2011 Review, *Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi* by Steve Inskeep, *The Washington Post*, October 14.
- 2011 Foreword, *Sikander*, by M. Salahuddin Khan, Fourth Edition, Karakoram Press: Lake Forest, Illinois.
- 2011 Foreword, *Critical Essays on Qaisra Shahraz's Fiction*, edited by Raheem Kidwai, Sarup Publishing: New Delhi.
- 2011 "The Code of the Hills," *Foreign Policy*, May 6.
- 2011 "Fair to Muslims?" *The New York Times*, March 8.
- 2011 "Half of the World Cannot Go to War," *The Washington Post*, January 4.
- 2010 "A Muslim response to Juan Williams," *The Washington Post*, October 21.
- 2010 "National Security Does Not 'Hinge' on Mosque," *The Washington Post*, September 10.
- 2010 "Inside America's Mosques," *Foreign Policy*, September 9.
- 2010 "Compassion in Taliban territory," *The Washington Post*, July 12.
- 2010 "Thomas Jefferson and Mohammed Ali Jinnah: Dreams from Two Founding Fathers," *The Washington Post*, July 4.
- 2010 "Hearts and Minds: Tale of 2 Generals in Afghanistan," *The Washington Post*, June 30.
- 2010 "Journey into America, past and present," *The Guardian*, June 2.
- 2009 Foreword, *Was Jesus a Muslim? Questioning Categories in the Study of Religion*, Robert Shedinger, Fortress Press: Minneapolis, MN.
- 2009 "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Debating the War of Ideas*, edited by E. D. Patterson and J. Gallagher. Macmillan: New York.
- 2009 "Swat in the Eye of the Storm, An Interview with Akbar Ahmed and Gustaaf Houtman" *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 25, No. 5, October.

- 2009 “America has yet to grasp the cost of losing in Aghanistan,” *The Guardian*, October 5.
- 2009 “Obama’s Bid to Reverse the Clash,” *The Washington Post*, June 4.
- 2008 Introduction, *BESA: Muslims Who Saved Jews in World War II*, by Norman Gershman, Syracuse University Press: New York.
- 2008 Introduction, *A World Safe for Diversity*, by Os Guinness, Buxton Readings.
- 2007 “Bush Still Doesn’t Get It”, Outlook Section, *The Washington Post*, July 22.
- 2007 “Talking Can Stop Hate”, *AARP, The Magazine*, March/April issue.
- 2007 “What’s fundamentalist about wanting to live in dignity?”, *The Independent*, July 19.
- 2007 “Seeing the West Through Islamic Eyes,” *The Washington Post*, May 1.
- 2007 “Islam in Today’s World: A Conversation with Akbar Ahmed,” featured in *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 23, No. 1, February.
- 2007 Introduction, *The Struggle for Peace*, edited by Waris Shere, Lulu: USA.
- 2006 “Uniting Over Jesus Christ”, with Alan Hertzck, *Washington Times*, December 11.
- 2006 “Mozart and Muslims: What Have We Learned?”, *Newsweek.com*, September 28.
- 2005 “A Thought for Musharraf”, with Judea Pearl, *Forward Forum*, New York, September 16.
- 2006 Debate with Samuel Huntington. “Five Years After 9/11, ‘Dialogue’ with Islam Cause for Hope”, The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life: Washington DC, August 22.
- 2005 “From Clash to Dialogue of Civilizations,” The Buxton Readings: Washington DC, May.
- 2005 “Carving the Path for Muslim-Jewish Dialogue.” with Judea Pearl, *Beliefnet*: USA, November 17. Reprinted by *Common Ground News*: USA, January 19, 2006.
- 2004 Foreword, *A Brief History of Islam*, Tamara Sonn, Blackwell publishing: Oxford.
- 2004 “A Message of Violence and Hatred,” *The Independent*, July 1.
- 2002-2005 Regular Syndicated Columnist for Religious News Service. Articles reprinted nationally and internationally. Simultaneously printed in the *Daily Times*: Lahore, Pakistan.
- 2002 “Crossroads,” review of three books on Afghanistan by Christina Lamb, Sallie Armstrong, and Phillip Corwin, *Washington Post*, December 22.
- 2003 “Towards a Jewish-Muslim Dialogue” with Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet, The Maimonides Foundation: London, No. 3, Autumn.
- 2003 “Wisdom in the Mountains”, Aspen Institute Journal: Colorado, July.
- 2003 Review, *Transnational Muslim Politics: Reimagining the Umma*, by Peter Mandaville, in *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 1, No. 1, March, pp. 171-172.
- 2002 “Ibn Khaldun’s Understanding of Civilizations and the Dilemmas of Islam and the West Today,” *The Middle East Journal*: Washington DC, Vol. 56, No. 1, Winter.
- 2002 Introduction, *Creation of the Modern Middle East* book series, Chelsea House Publishers: Philadelphia.
- 2002 Introduction to and Chapter in *Inside Islam*, Marlowe & Company: New York.

- 2002 "Jefferson and Jinnah: Humanist Ideals and the Mythology of Nation-Building" in *The Future of Liberal Democracy* edited by R. K. Ramazani and Robert Fattouh Jr, Palgrave.
- 2002 "Discussing Inevitability," *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 30.
- 2002 "Pakistan's Blasphemy Law: Words Fail Me," *The Washington Post*, May 19.
- 2002 Review, "Leaps of Faith," of books by Tariq Ali, Bernard Lewis, and John Esposito, *The Guardian*, May 3.
- 2001 "Blood Brothers," with Amit Pandya, *The Washington Post*, December 28.
- 2001 "Hollywood and Islam," *LA Times Syndication*, November 21.
- 2001 "Islam and Academe," with Lawrence Rosen, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 2.
- 2001 "Veiled Truth," *The Guardian*, October 21.
- 2001 "Opinions From Across the World," *The Sunday Telegraph*, September 30.
- 2001 "I've Spent My Life Trying to Repair the Image of Islam: Has It All Been In Vain?" *The Independent*, September 20.
- 2001 "Islam Needs to Talk to the Rest of the World", *The Independent*, July 20.
- 2000 "From Millionaire to Cleaner, Everyone is Equal on the Haj," *The Independent*, April 24.
- 1999 "My Grandson, Child of the People of the Book", *Guardian*, January 16.
- 1998 "World without Honour?" *The World Today*, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, October.
- 1997 "Tribes, Regional Pressures, and Nationhood", *Old Roads, New Highways*, edited by Victoria Schofield, Oxford University Press, Karachi.
- 1997 "Women and the Household in Baluchistan and Frontier Society," *Family and Gender in Pakistan*, edited by Hastings Donnan and Frits Selier, Hindustan Publishing Corporation: Delhi.
- 1996 "Towards the Global Millennium: The Challenge of Islam", *The World Today*, August/September, pages 212-216.
- 1996 "Islam," *World Book International Year Book*.
- 1996 "Towards the Global Millennium: The Challenge of Islam," *The World Today*, The Royal Institute of International Affairs: London, August/September. Next issue carried response to the article by Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and Prince Hassan of Jordan.
- 1996 "An Islamic University on the Internet: Faith and Reason," *The Independent*, July 20.
- 1995 "Media Mongols at the Gates of Baghdad," *At Century's End: Great Minds Reflect On Our Times*, edited by N.P. Gardels, ALTI Publishing: California. (Alongside writers including Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, Isaiah Berlin, and Nelson Mandela).
- 1995 "Islam," *The Guardian*, ("Outlook/Predictions" for 1996), December 30.
- 1995 "Past Masters," *The Times Higher Educational Supplement*, March 17.
- 1995 "Feeding a Hunger for Spiritual Peace," *The Times: Credo*, February 18.

- 1995 "No Place Like Home," (the Chechen war), *The Guardian: Comment and Analysis*, January 12.
- 1995 "'Ethnic Cleansing': A Metaphor for Our Time?" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (lead article), Vol. 18, No. 1, January.
- 1994 "Trial by Ordeal Among Bugtis: Ritual as a Diacritical Factor in Baloch Ethnicity," *Marginality and Modernity: Ethnicity and Change in Post-Colonial Balochistan*, edited by Paul Titus, Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- 1994 "The World of the Prophet," *The Independent on Sunday* (The Sunday Review), October 23.
- 1994 "Fowlmere: Roundheads, Rambo and Rivalry in an English Village Today," with the Reverend James Mynors, *Anthropology Today*: London, October.
- 1994 "Mr. Jinnah and the Quest for Muslim Identity in South Asia," *History Today*, September.
- 1994 "How Science Shows Religion the Way: What We Believe: Leading Scientists and Religious Thinkers Give a Personal View," *The Sunday Times: The Culture*: London, August, 14.
- 1994 "Fighting the Fear of Islam's Crescent," *The Guardian*, August 9.
- 1993 "Mor and Tor : Binary and Opposing Models of Pukhtun Womanhood," with Zeenat Ahmed, *Women, Aid and Development*, edited by C. Cottam and S.V. Rao, HPC, Delhi.
- 1992 "Bombay Films: The Cinema as Metaphor for Indian Society and Politics," *Modern Asian Studies*, 26, 2, Cambridge University Press, pp. 289-320.
- 1991 "Postmodernist Perceptions of Islam: Observing the Observer," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 31, No 3.
- 1991 "Migration, Death and Martyrdom in Rural Pakistan," *Economy and Culture in Pakistan*, edited by Hastings Donnan and Pnina Werbner, Macmillan: London. Previously published in *MAN: The Royal Anthropological Institute*: London, as "Death in Islam: The Hawkes Bay Case", 21(1)1986.
- 1991 "Death of the Noble Savage," *New Statesman & Society*, pp. 16-17, April 12, 1991  
Interview with Salman Rushdie, *The Guardian* (London), January 17.
- 1990 Foreword, *The Cultural Basis of Afghan Nationalism*, edited by E. Anderson and N.H. Dupree, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, Pinter Publishers: London and New York.
- 1984 Introduction, *Monograph on the Orakzai Country and Clans*, by L.W. King, Vanguard Books Ltd: Lahore. Originally published in 1900 by Punjab Government Press, Lahore.
- 1984 Introduction, *Report on the Mohmands*, W.R.H. Merk, Vanguard Books Ltd: Lahore. Originally published in 1898 by Punjab Government Press: Lahore.
- 1981 Review, "The Great Game Revisited", of four books in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 41, No. 1, November, pp. 73-80.
- 1980 "A Taste for Freedom: The Case of the Gomal Nomads", Khyber.org: Peshawar, Pakistan.
- 1979 Foreword, *Mizh: A Monograph on Government's relations with the Mahsud Tribe*, by E.B. Howell, Oxford in Asia Historical Reprint Series: Karachi. Originally published in 1931 by Government of India Press: Simla, India.

## Selected Lectures & Events

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- 2021 Moderated - President of Pakistan Dialogue with Dr. Arif Alvi at American University, School of International Service, hosted by Dean Christine Chin, November 18.
- 2021 Panelist – “20 Years Since 9/11: What Do We Do Now?” American University, College of Arts and Sciences; Department of Anthropology and History, September 9.
- 2021 Online Lecture - “*Riasat-e-Madina: A Model of Governance and Service Delivery to Emulate in our Times*,” National Institute of Management, Peshawar, August 4.
- 2021 Special Lecture – *The Golden age of Islam and lessons for a post-Covid world* at the Institute for International and Area Studies, Tsinghua University: Beijing. July 8.
- 2021 Annual Lecture – *From Waziristan to Washington: Nurturing understanding between East and West* at Eton College, U.K. February 8.
- 2021 Keynote Speaker – MACFEST, Manchester, UK.
- 2021 “L.I.F.E. Lecture – Judaism and Islam: Bridging the Great Divide” at the B’nai Israel Synagogue, Rockville, MD, January 31.
- 2020 Special Lecture with Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi as Discussant, “India and Pakistan: Searching for Humanity in South Asia,” Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, August 6.
- 2020 Honorable guest with Professor Judea Pearl at the National Interfaith Iftar’s “Common Destiny for Humanity” event, May 21.
- 2020 Special Lecture - COVID-19 Chronicles: Beyond the UK series, Woolf Institute, May, 13.
- 2020 Keynote Address – “‘A Very Light Sleeper’: The Scourge of Anti-Semitism,” United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Hearing on Global Efforts to Counter Anti-Semitism at US Senate, January 8.
- 2019 Lecture – “Ibn Khaldun and Max Weber,” Bridge Building at the Indiana Center for Middle East Peace, November 8.
- 2018 Panelist – Karachi Literary Festival, March 2.
- 2018 Launched first ever full course on Pakistan at American University.
- 2018 Book Launch – Discussion with German Ambassador Emily Haber at Berliner Salon Series over *Journey into Europe*, November 24.
- 2018 Special Lecture – Council of Islamic Ideology, Islamabad, Pakistan, June 7.
- 2018 Special Lecture - Azad Jammu and Kashmir University, June 26.
- 2018 Special Lecture - Muzaffarabad and Mirpur University of Science & Technology, June 26.
- 2018 Book Launch - *Journey into Europe* at Bradford Literary Festival, June 4.
- 2018 Lecture – “Being Muslim in Europe Today: Building Bridges in an Age of Uncertainty,” SOAS, London, May 24.

- 2018 Book Launch - *Journey into Europe* at Chatham House, London, May 24.
- 2018 Book Launch - *Journey into Europe*, Woolf Institute, May 17.
- 2017 Panelist—*How's the Trumppocene Era Going? Anthropologists Reflect on the Past Year*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 2.
- 2017 Lecture—*Being Muslim Today: Building Bridges in an Age of Uncertainty*, Chautauqua. Institute, Chautauqua, NY, July 18.
- 2017 Panelist—*Radicalism on the Rise: Is Religion the Disease or the Cure?*, AJC Global Forum, Washington Hilton, June 6.
- 2017 Lecture—*What's next for Political Islam?*, NESA/ARCENT Chaplains Symposium, Arlington, VA, March 10.
- 2016 Film Screening—*Journey into Europe*, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC, September 28.
- 2016 Keynote address - USAID Eid al-Fitr Service, USAID Headquarters, Washington, DC, July 8.
- 2016 Law and Social Sciences Seminar—“Pakistan’s evolving strategies to deal with the Taliban.” University of Nottingham Institute of Asia and Pacific Studies. May 26.
- 2016 Annual Lecture—Centre for the Study of Pakistan, SOAS, University of London. May 20.
- 2016 Panelist—“Interfaith Dialogue: Lessons Learned and Paths Forward,” Berkley Center at Ten Symposium, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, April 8.
- 2016 Film Screening—*Journey into Europe*, U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, DC, March 23.
- 2016 Keynote—Civilizations Embrace Conference, University of Maryland, March 21.
- 2016 Panelist—“The Portrayal of Muslims in the Arts and Culture,” Shakespeare Theater Company, Washington, DC, March 18.
- 2016 Lecture—*Journey into Europe*, The Ralph Bunche Library Speaker Series, U.S. Department of State, February 24.
- 2016 Film Screening—*Journey into Europe*, Cosmos Club, Washington, DC, February 19.
- 2016 Brunch Talk—*Islam & the West: The Urgency of Understanding Each Other*, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, February 19.
- 2016 Film Screening—*Journey into Europe*, Global Film Festival, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, February 18.
- 2016 Film Screening—*Journey into Europe*, Embassy of Germany, Washington, DC, January 28.
- 2016 John R. Donnell Memorial Lecture—*Islam and the West Since 9/11*, The Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, FL, January 19.
- 2015 Public Dialogue—*Interfaith Dialogue: Countering Religious Violence. Featuring Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Ambassador Akbar Ahmed*, American University, November 12.

- 2015 Film Screening—*Journey into Europe*, Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC, November 11.
- 2015 Film Screening and Launch—*Journey into Europe*, Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Film Festival, Rosemont, IL, September 5.
- 2015 Lecture—*Islam, ISIS and Violence in Europe: What Should America Be Doing?*, Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, NY, August 12.
- 2015 Class of 1930 Lecture—*Islam and the West: Dialogue or Clash of Civilizations?*, Sponsored by the Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, April 27.
- 2015 Chair—Ditchley Foundation Conference, “Global ambitions and local grievances: Understanding political Islam,” Oxfordshire, UK, March 19-21.
- 2014 Participant—School of International Service Special Forum, “Fighting ISIS: The Future of American Foreign Policy in the Middle East,” American University, Washington, DC, October 15.
- 2014 Co-Chair—2014 Global Peace Leadership Conference, “America at a Crossroads: Leading Our Nation to Live Up to Its Founding Ideals,” sponsored by the Global Peace Foundation, Arlington, VA, September 19-21.
- 2014 Public Lecture—*Journey into Europe: Findings from the Field*, Sponsored by the Muslims, Trust, and Cultural Dialogue Project, SOAS, London, UK, August 20.
- 2014 Public Lecture—*Clash or Dialogue of Civilizations?: Relations Between the West and the World of Islam after 9/11*, Sponsored by the British Council, Berlin, Germany, July 9.
- 2014 Special Lecture—*Journey into Europe: Islam, Immigration, and Empire*, Beyond Islamophobia Conference, SOAS, London, UK, June 7.
- 2014 2nd Annual Harri Holkeri Lecture—*Islam, Peace-Building and Conflict Transformation*, Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland, May 29.
- 2014 Launch of *Journey into Europe*, Chaired by Lord Bhikhu Parekh, House of Lords, London, UK, May 14.
- 2014 Public Lecture—*The Thistle and the Drone*, Sponsored by the Center for International and Global Studies, Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Missouri, March 11.
- 2014 Addressed a Joint Session of the Parliament of Pakistan, January 9.
- 2013 Public Lecture – *Muslim Tribes and the War on Terror: The Thistle and the Drone*, Brunei Hall, SOAS, London, UK, June 29.
- 2013 Public Lecture—*How America’s War on Terror Became a Global War on Tribal Islam*, Sponsored by the Middle East Centre, London School of Economics, London, UK, June 26.
- 2013 Keynote Address – *Muslim Tribes and the War on Terror*, Chaired by Lord Anthony Giddens, Chatham House, London, UK, June 25.
- 2013 Special Lecture—*The Thistle and the Drone*, Chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Wajid Shamsul Hasan, High Commission of Pakistan, London, UK
- 2013 Public Lecture—*Discussion of The Thistle and the Drone*, Sponsored by the Alwaleed

- Centre, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 17.
- 2013 Public Lecture—*Fostering Peace: Bridging the Gap Between the West and the Muslim World*, Sponsored by the British Council and the Lambrakis Foundation, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, Greece, June 13.
- 2013 Public Lecture and Dialogue with Imam Khalid Latif on *The Thistle and the Drone*, Hosted by SOAS Alumni Association, New York University, New York, NY, May 23.
- 2013 Keynote Address on *The Thistle and the Drone*, Hosted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Mission to the United Nations, United Nations headquarters, New York, NY, May 22.
- 2013 Fed Forum Lecture, “A Better Understanding of Pakistan,” The Pentagon, Washington, DC, May 3.
- 2013 Public Lecture and Dialogue with the Bishop of Washington, the Right Reverend Mariann Budde, on *The Thistle and the Drone*, Perry Auditorium, National Cathedral, Washington, DC, April 23.
- 2013 Keynote Address – *Tribal Societies & Counterterrorism in Pakistan*; U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, DC, April 15.
- 2013 Lecture on *The Thistle and the Drone*, Executive Institute, Department of Treasury, Washington, DC, April 3.
- 2012 Public lecture - *Pakistan’s Wild West Frontier and the Drone: Politics of the Tribal Belt*; House of Lords, London, sponsored by LAFZ Magazine and chaired by Baroness Afshar, November 29.
- 2012 Public lecture and screening of Professor Ahmed’s documentary film *Journey into America* followed by a discussion of the film and book project *Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam*; presided over by the Deputy Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, U.S. Embassy London, November 28.
- 2012 Inaugural Lecture for a lecture series jointly hosted by the Woolf Institute and Westminster College, titled *Bridging the Great Divide: Teaching the Abrahamic Faiths*; Westminster College, Cambridge, November 22.
- 2012 Public Lecture - *Gender, Security, and Inter-Generational Conflict in Muslim Societies Post 9/11*; Centre for Gender Studies, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge, October 11.
- 2012 Keynote address on interfaith dialogue and Pakistan, luncheon, and private interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury; Lambeth Palace, London, October 8.
- 2011 “Reflections on the Eve of 9/11,” Dole Institute, University of Kansas, October 27.
- 2011 Sermon on 10th Anniversary of 9/11, St. Albans Church, National Cathedral, Washington, DC, September 11.
- 2011 Special Plenary Lecture to The House of Bishops (150 Bishops) during the annual retreat of the Episcopalian Church, March 28. (First Muslim ever to address the House).
- 2010 Dialogue with Bernard Lewis, World Affairs Council, Washington DC, November 1.
- 2010 Luncheon speaker, Board of Rabbis, Baltimore, October 7. (First Muslim to address the Board).
- 2009 Annual Lecture Series, The FORUM at Big Arts, Sanibel Island: Florida, January 30.



- 2008 McMurrin Lecture in Religion and Culture, University of Utah, Tanner Humanities Center, October 6.
- 2007 Keynote Address (with Dr. Judea Pearl), "Festival of Faiths", Greater Kansas City Festival of Faiths, November 13.
- 2007 Keynote Address, "Islam in an Era of Globalization," Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, San Diego State University, San Diego, October 18.
- 2007 Keynote Address, Annual Conference of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions at Monterrey, Mexico, September 23.
- 2007 Keynote Address, The Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York, Summer Series, July 25.
- 2007 Keynote Address, 60th Anniversary of the Independence of India and Pakistan, hosted by the University of Southampton, UK, July 17.
- 2007 Special Lecture at the London School of Economics, London, July 10.
- 2007 Expert Address to All-Parties Committee on Terrorism, House of Commons, July 10.
- 2007 House of Commons, All Party Parliamentary Group, Boothroyd Room, "Journey into Islam", July 2.
- 2007 Keynote Address, Conference "The Way Forward", Centre for Muslim-Jewish Relations, Cambridge, UK, June 28.
- 2007 Jewish-Muslim Dialogue, with Dr. Dori Laub, in "Fear and Trauma: Ruptured Souls; Ruptured Cultures", The New York Freudian Society, Washington DC and the School of International Service, American University, Washington DC, May 5.
- 2007 "Rethinking the War on Terror: Developing a Strategy to Counter Extremist Ideologies", The Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. Roundtable discussion on the Islamist ideology for General John Abizaid, Combatant Commander, U.S. Central Command, Rotunda Room of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington DC, January 10.
- 2006 Inaugural lectures for the first Chair in Jewish-Muslim Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, November 28.
- 2006 Panel moderated by Wolf Blitzer, HBO showing of *The Journalist and the Jihadi*, French Embassy, October 5.
- 2006 Keynote Address, Annual ISNA Conference, Dallas, July 1.
- 2006 "How to Tackle Anti-Semitism and Anti-Americanism in the Muslim World", moderated by Andrea Koppel of CNN, The United States Memorial Holocaust Museum, Washington DC, June 22. (First Muslim to give public lecture at the Museum).
- 2006 Dialogue with Karen Armstrong, "Islam and the West", Council on Foreign Relations, New York, May 10.
- 2006 Lecture/Speaker along with Dick Cheney, Dr. Henry Kissinger and Bernard Lewis, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Luncheon honoring Professor Bernard Lewis, May 1.
- 2006 Keynote Speaker: "Building Bridges by Repairing Churches, Adams Islamic Center, Dulles," February 2.

- 2005 “Islam and the West: Clash or Dialogue of Civilizations”, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Distinguished Speakers Lecture Series, Pentagon Auditorium, Washington DC, August 9.
- 2005 Address from the Pulpit, with Bishop John Chane and Rabbi Bruce Lustig, Evensong, National Cathedral, Washington DC, February 20. (First Muslim to be honored with an Evensong dedicated to him)
- 2004 “Islam Under Siege: From Clash to Dialogue of Civilizations”, Milliband Lecture on Culture in the Age of Global Communications, London School of Economics, June 15.
- 2003- “Ahmed-Pearl Dialogue for Muslim-Jewish Understanding,” multiple public dialogues with Professor Judea Pearl launched in Pittsburgh October 23, 2003. These high-profile events took place in the USA, Canada and the UK and were moderated by well-known usually Christian personalities. In the summer of 2004, Pearl and Ahmed were hosted by the British Foreign Minister and received at the House of Lords by a Jewish, Christian and Muslim Lord before their address in the historic Moses Room. They visited a Jewish and Muslim school with the Chief Rabbi and were part of his annual address to the nation broadcast by the BBC.
- 2003 Featured Speaker, Summer Speaker Series, The Aspen Institute, Colorado. Also gave the public lecture, July 8.
- 2003 Chief Moderator for three-day course, “America and Islam: Challenges for the 21st Century”, the Socrates Society, The Aspen Institute, July 3-6. One day course on Islam, The Aspen Institute’s Society of Fellows Seminar, Aspen Institute, Colorado, July 7.
- 2003 “A Dialogue among Followers of Islam, Christianity and Judaism”, with Bishop Chane and Senior Rabbi Lustig, National Press Club, Washington DC, June 10.
- 2003 Keynote Luncheon Speaker, Bipartisan Congressional Retreat, “American Values & Islamic Values,” The Greenbrier, West Virginia, Saturday, March 1.
- 2003 Addressed Annual Clergy Conference, retreat that brings over a hundred clergy, spouses and diocesan staff. Shrinemont Conference Center in Orkney Springs, Virginia, May 28.
- 2003 Talk and view *Living Islam*, FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia, Spring.
- 2002 Keynote Address, Luncheon Speaker, ISNA, Grand Hyatt, Washington DC, August 31.
- 2002 “Jefferson and Jinnah: Humanist Ideals and the Mythology of Nation-Building,” The International Center for Jefferson Studies, Bellagio, Italy, June 3-7.
- 2002 President’s Distinguished Annual Lecture, The University of Victoria, Canada, March 15.
- 2002 Special Lecture hosted by the Media Advisor on Islam in the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, East India Club, London.
- 2002 Gave the American University Emeriti “Distinguished Speaker” Lecture.
- 2002 Gave the Annual Khattab Lecture at the University of Toledo, Ohio.
- 2002 Executive Seminar on Asia, Aspen Institute, Aspen Wye River: Maryland.
- 2002 Seminar hosted by Bill Moyers, “Islam and the West”, Aspen Institute, Aspen Wye River: Maryland. Broadcast as a PBS special in July 2002.

- 1999 Rabbi Goldstein Memorial Lecture, "Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism: The Need for Understanding", organized by the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues, UK, January 11. (First Muslim to deliver the Lecture).
- 1996 Gave the Inaugural Scholar's Annual Lecture at Rugby School, January 19. (Shortlist included Salman Rushdie).
- 1996 Gave the Longman/*History Today* Awards Lecture, London, January 4, "Sparkling and provocative lecture by Akbar Ahmed", *History Today*, January.
- 1996 Addressed Evensong, Selwyn College Chapel, Cambridge, UK, May 19. (First Muslim Oxbridge Don to address a congregation at Evensong).
- 1995 Served as a Commissioner on the historic Runnymede Commission "Islamophobia: A Challenge for us all," set up to examine "Islamophobia," a term the Commission coined to mean prejudice against Islam and Muslims. The Commission's Report on Islamophobia is considered a landmark in ethnic and community relations. Earlier, Commissioner on the influential Runnymede Trust Commission to study the causes of anti-Semitism and suggest recommendations to check it.
- 1995 Awarded the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial Medal by Lord Greenhill on behalf of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs for helping mutual understanding between Islam and the West, London, March 14.
- 1994 Delivered the third ERS/LSE Annual Lecture at the London School of Economics.
- 1993 Assisted in the preparation of the Special Lecture on Islam and present when delivered by HRH the Prince of Wales at Oxford, October 27.
- 1992-1999 Member, informal Islamic advisory group to HRH.
- 1990 Delivered a special lecture on Islam to HRH the Princess of Wales at the Royal Anthropological Institute, London, September 13.

## Media (Selected)

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- 2000- Frequent appearances on television and radio for ABC, CBS, NBC News, Al Jazeera, ARY, BBC, Channel 4, ITN, CBC, CNN, FOX, GEO, MSNBC, NBC Nightly News History Channel, National Geographic Channel, Tavis Smiley Show, and Milt Rosenberg Show.
- 2010 Television Interview on "Anderson Cooper 360," *CNN*, August 14.
- 2010 Television Interview on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," *Comedy Central*, August 5.
- 2000- Interviewed frequently for *Beliefnet*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Religious News Service*, *Washington Jewish Weekly*, *Washington Post*.
- 2007 *Encountering Islam*, 12 audio CD lectures, NowYouKnow Media, Washington DC.

- 2007 Interview in "Cain and Abel: Brothers at War," *Mysteries of the Bible*, National Geographic, broadcast Sunday, March 11.
- 2004 Ahmed-Pearl dialogue, "Across the Great Divide", by Paula Span, *Washington Post*, Magazine, August 1.
- 2004 "Anthropological Ancestors," audio-visual interview series at Cambridge University, July.
- 2001-2006 Three Television Appearances on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."
- 2002-2006 Regular syndicated columnist for the Religion News Service.

## **Films/ Documentaries**

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- 2015 *Journey into Europe*. Producer, script-writer, narrator, and director
- 2010 *Journey into America*. Producer, narrator and script-writer.
- 2007 *Rumi Returning*, documentary. Consultant and interviewee.
- 2006 *Glories of Islamic Art*. Presenter and consultant for three-part TV series Channel 5, UK.
- 1998 *Jinnah*, feature film, starring Christopher Lee and James Fox. Executive producer and co-script writer.
- 1997 *Mr. Jinnah: The Making of Pakistan*, documentary. Executive producer and script consultant.
- 1993 *Living Islam*, six-part BBC TV series based on Ahmed's book *Discovering Islam*. Presenter and narrator.
- 1970s Consultant for *Afghan Exodus*, *Khyber* and *The Pathans*. Documentaries by Dr. Andre Singer.

## **Service**

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- 2017- International Advisory Board, The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, The Queen's University of Belfast.
- 2011- Rank and Tenure Committee, School of International Service, American University.
- 2010-2011 Member, Subcommittee, Board of Regents, Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, MD.
- 2007- Centennial Honorary Chair, Washington National Cathedral Centennial Celebration

- (along with Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor).
- 2007-2009  
2007 Advisory Committee to Director, National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC).  
2007 President Ford's Funeral, National Cathedral. Part of the "Procession Order" as "Representative of Faith" escorting the casket, January 2.
- 2007-  
2007 Trustee, Board of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.  
"Incident Management Team", Department of Homeland Security. Also special meeting with DHS Michael Chertoff on issues and challenges facing American Muslims, May 8.
- 2007 Consultant for and interviewed in *Introduction to Arab American and Muslim American Cultures for DHS Personnel*, DVD, Department of Homeland Security.
- 2006 Testified Before Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "Islam and the West: Searching for Common Ground", July 18.
- 2005- Co-founder and Co-director, and Consulting Distinguished Scholar, The Buxton Initiative, Washington DC.
- 2005- President of The Advisory Council of The Society for Dialogue and Action, Cambridge, UK.
- 2003 Charter Member of a national-level interfaith initiative based at the National Cathedral. (Appointed by the Bishop of Washington DC).
- 2002-2007 Speech and led the 9/11 Unity Walk, with Bishop John Chane and Rabbi Bruce Lustig, Washington DC,
- 2001- Trustee, World Faiths Development Dialogue (with Archbishop of Canterbury and President of the World Bank).
- 1999 Member, Advisory Council of the Three Faiths Forum, UK, promoting dialogue and understanding between the Abrahamic religions.

## **Honors & Distinctions**

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- 2021 Named one of "The 500 Most Influential Muslims" (mentioned over the last decade annually), Royal Islamic Studies Center, Amman, Jordan.
- 2021-20  
2019 Included as Polymath in the Polymath Da Vinci Network Festival.  
PAKPAC, USA Diplomatic Leadership Award at the Bipartisan Congressional Annual Iftar, May 21
- 2017 Awarded the Sir Syed Day Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in Poetry, Literature, Arts or the Sciences by the Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
- 2017 Named the 2017 American University School of International Service Scholar/Teacher of the Year.
- 2015 Named a Global Thought Leader by The *WorldPost* and the Gottlieb Duttweiler

- Institute.
- 2014 Gold Winner in Political Science for *The Thistle and the Drone*, Foreward Review's IndieFab Awards.
- 2014 German Peace Prize for *The Thistle and the Drone*, Karachi Literary Festival.
- 2013 *The Thistle and the Drone* selected as one of the "Books of the Year" in *The Times Literary Supplement*, November 29.
- 2011 Winner of the American Book Award for *Journey into America*.
- 2011 Award given by the *Muslim Journal*, for Achievement in "Muslim Advancements in Civilization", Washington DC, December 10. (Other awardees included Michelle Obama and Colin Powell).
- 2009 Named one of "The 500 Most Influential Muslims" (in a study by John Esposito, Georgetown University). Royal Islamic Studies Center, Amman, Jordan.
- 2009 The 12th Annual Rabbi Joshua Herschel/Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Interfaith Activism given at the Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, January 19.
- 2008 Ahmed and family honored at 29th InterFaith Concert at the Washington National Cathedral, November 18. (First family to receive the honor).
- 2008 Rumi Peace and Dialogue Award.
- 2006 Winner of Purpose Prize Award with Dr. Judea Pearl.
- 2005 Finalist with Dr. Judea Pearl in the "Most Inspiring Person of the Year 2005," poll conducted by Beliefnet.
- 2005 Evensong dedicated to Ahmed at the National Cathedral with the Bishop and Senior Rabbi of the Washington Hebrew Congregation offering testimonies, February 20. (First Muslim to be so honored).
- 2005 The First Annual Bridge Builder's Award from the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.
- 2005 Humanitarian Award, highest honor of Chapel of Four Chaplains, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2004 Awarded "U.S. Professor of the Year," for Extraordinary Dedication to Undergraduate Teaching, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Washington DC.
- 2004 "Anthropological Ancestors," Anthropology's Hall of Fame, London.
- 2004 Inaugural Gandhi Center Fellowship of Peace Award, Gandhi Center, Washington DC.
- 1999 Special Award by the Jinnah Society, Karachi, Pakistan.
- 1998 Inaugural Allama Iqbal Award, Pakistan Society, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.
- 1993 Elevated to Category C for "Academic Distinction" in the Fellowship, Selwyn College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.
- 1992 Star of Excellence (*Sitara-i-Imtiaz*) for academic distinction, Government of Pakistan.
- 1991 Became the first Pakistani to have been elected as member of the Council of the Anthropological Institute, London, UK.

1982 Medal of Excellence (*Tamgha-i-Imtiaz*), Government of Pakistan.

### **Editorial/Advisory Boards**

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- International Advisory Board of the *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, a joint publication of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and the Association of Muslim Social Scientists.
- *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, London School of Economics and Political Science, London.
- *Asian Affairs*, Royal Society for Asian Affairs.
- *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, edited from Oxford University.
- *Critical Theology: International Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Critical Theory and Theology*, University of Nottingham, UK.
- *Central Asian Survey*, Oxford.
- *Muslim Education Quarterly*, Cambridge.
- *The Journal of Economic and Social Research*, Fatih University, Istanbul.
- *Human Rights Review*, Wellesley College, Mass, USA.
- *Journal of Human Rights*.
- *The Globalist*.
- Council on Faith and International Affairs, Institute for Global Engagement.
- Co-Chair of the “Hope Not Hate” Town Hall meetings for Informed Democracy.
- The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, Michigan.
- The Council for America’s First Freedom Richmond VA.
- The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies.
- Center for the Study of Islam, Democracy.
- Our Voices Together (Victims of 9/11).
- International Institute for Mediation and Historical Conciliation.

### **Professional Memberships**

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- The Royal Anthropological Institute.
- Association of Social Anthropologists.
- Royal Society for Asian Affairs.
- Royal Institute of International Affairs.
- United Oxford and Cambridge University Club, London.
- Cosmos Club, Washington DC.

## **Appendix**

### **Comments on Akbar Ahmed and his work**

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“The BBC did say he is the world's leading authority on contemporary Islam. As I can testify, the BBC rarely gets things wrong,”

- **Gavin Esler, presenter of BBC’s Newsnight and Hard Talk, while introducing Professor Ahmed at SOAS on June 29, 2013.**

“My whole life I have been inspired by Professor Akbar S. Ahmed...I think history has produced, to my knowledge, two Akbars—Akbar the Great, and he actually like [Akbar Ahmed] pursued interfaith harmony in the subcontinent, and Akbar Ahmed...If there is any living saint, he is a saintly figure.”

- **Dr. James Shera, MBE, Sitara-e- Pakistan (Star of Pakistan), former Mayor of Rugby and prominent Christian Pakistani leader in the UK, at the launch of The Thistle and the Drone at the Pakistani High Commission in June, 2013.**

“Professor Ahmed is - quite simply – one of the greatest scholars of Islam in the world today.”

- **Deputy Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, U.S. Embassy London, in her introduction of Professor Ahmed at the Public Lecture and Screening of Journey into America, November 28, 2012.**

“Akbar Ahmed has been called ‘the world’s leading authority on Islam.’ Thank you so much as ever again, Akbar. It’s a joy to hear from you.”

- **Sir David Frost, Frost over the World, Al-Jazeera, January 20, 2012.**

“It is because of Dr. Akbar Ahmed that the world is a safer place for all of us. I treasure every moment with him.”

- **Arif Mansuri, President and Managing Editor, Pakistan Link Publications, in his welcome address at lunch honoring Ahmed, Pakistan Link, December 30, 2011.**



“When he asks what the soul of a great man looks like, when he asks how deep is the ocean floor, show him this collection of poems, and say: Like this.”

- **From the Foreword by Dan Futterman (Oscar nominated writer and actor) to Akbar Ahmed’s *Suspended Somewhere Between: A Book of Verse*, 2011.**

“Nobody gets a standing ovation at The House of Bishops except the Presiding Bishop...when we first met in 2002, I never would have believed you would be here with me presenting a full day on Islam.”

- **Bishop John Chane, National Cathedral, Washington DC. (Quoted in the *Omaha World Herald*, April 4, 2011.**

“Casual conversations with colleagues subsequent to your presentation confirmed what I knew intuitively. Your remarks resonated with everyone! ... I was so glad that selected members of Baltimore's Islamic and Christian clergy were also with us to hear your important message. Conversations like that of yesterday need to be replicated as much as possible to create a ripple effect that ultimately will become a wave...To be sure, in this ever-shrinking global world, our communities must interface, learn from each other, and render chizuk, spiritual strength, to one another so as to neutralize the hatred fueled by misunderstanding, distrust, and ignorance...May God continue to look favorably upon your efforts to create peace in this troubled and fractured world.”

- **Rabbi Michael Meyerstein, Executive Director, Baltimore Board of Rabbis, October 8, 2010.**

“First of all, thank you Professor Ahmed. I just wanted to publicly express my thanks and my deep appreciation. You have done more than any single individual I know building bridges between Muslims, Jews, Christians here in the United States and elsewhere, and for establishing bridges between Israel and its Middle Eastern neighbors, and we and the state of Israel are deeply appreciative of your efforts.”

- **Ambassador Michael Oren at American University, Washington DC, April 22, 2010.**

“The life’s motto of Ambassador Akbar Ahmed – could very well be the title of tonight’s program “Bridging the Divide”. Whether it’s explaining his culture, his faith, and his peoples’ history to an often-hostile West or his many efforts to build other bridges through dialogue, Ambassador Ahmed is a bridgebuilder. His arrival in Washington DC shortly before 9/11 propelled Professor Ahmed to his place as a pioneer of interfaith dialogue, initiating Abrahamic summits with the

Episcopal Bishop, rabbis and fellow Muslims – and ultimately frank, compassionate public dialogues with Judea Pearl – father of Jewish-American Journalist Daniel Pearl, murdered in Karachi, Pakistan, the city of Akbar’s youth... He is a scholar and diplomat with a fascinating life and history, and I am honored to be his friend and fan.”

- **Laura Cutler, Director of the Center for Israel Studies, American University, October 11, 2010.**

“In the field, with military and civilian teams and local people in locations across Afghanistan and Pakistan at various times through the next three years, the wisdom of Ahmed's insight came home to me again and again.”

- **David Kilcullen in *The Accidental Guerrilla*, Oxford University Press, 2009, (Chapter 4, "Terrain, Tribes, and Terrorists": Conflicts from Indonesia to Europe, page 226).**

“My first meeting with Dr. Ahmed was some ten years ago when I was Archbishop of Canterbury and Akbar was the High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK. I was bowled over by our meeting. Here was a distinguished scholar in Anthropology and expert in Islam, eager to forward warm relationships between Christianity and Islam! We began a firm friendship that day; a friendship that has deepened into deep collegueship in a number of inter-faith collaboration. I am delighted to offer this tribute as the 29th InterFaith Concert honors him tonight. He is a devoted humanitarian and a fine human being. Eileen and I only wish we could be with you to share in the rejoicing!

Akbar, be in no doubt of the significant role you are playing in our needy world.”

- **Right Reverend and Right Honorable Lord Carey of Clifton, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, November, 2008.**

“Akbar Ahmed is one of the great contemporary exponents of Islam, a man I admire as a scholar and cherish as a friend. He is a role-model of reason in an age of anxiety, a voice of tolerance at a time of tension, and an avatar of hope when all too many are tempted by despair. We need to recognize the courage of a man like Akbar, the breadth of his intellectual horizons, and the generosity of his spirit, for there are all too few in the world's great religious faiths prepared to take the risk of moderation in an age of extreme and they represent religion at its highest. True faith does not fear; and true love of God extends beyond boundaries, inclusive in its embrace. May he continue to be blessed and be a blessing in all he does.”

- **Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth, November. 2008.**

“The leading authority on contemporary Islam.”

- ***The Sunday Times Magazine*. “Relative Values” by Sue Fox, July 27, 2008.**

“His voice needs to be heard, and his courage strengthened.”

- **Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace laureate, cover *Journey into Islam*, 2007.**

“He is one of the few people in the world today who can interpret the one to the other from a position of affection for both East and West. Of his many gifts and talents he is a peacemaker in the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi and Desmond Tutu.”

- **The Rt. Rev. James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, CMJR, Cambridge website, 2007.**

“Dr Akbar Ahmed deserves to win the Nobel Peace Prize. He is one of the great peacemakers in the world today. I place him along with the Dalai Lama and Gandhi.”

- **Jan Du Plain, “On Faith,” Washington Post/Newsweek online comment, 2007.**

“Thank you for the wisdom and generosity of spirit you are constantly showing through your spoken and written words. I cannot tell you how important your voice is right now. These are fateful times - and in you classic Islam has a spokesman and role model of supreme grace and dignity. May God/Allah be with you in all you do - and I thank you from the depth of my heart.”

- **Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the UK, correspondence in 2005.**

“Akbar Ahmed, the world’s leading authority on contemporary Islam.”

- **BBC, Radio 2, “Good Morning Sunday”, October 24, 2004.**

“Finally, I have dedicated the book to three colleagues and friends who over the years have enriched my understanding of Arab and Muslim thought beyond any capacity for measurement. Akbar Ahmed embodies all one could hope for in a man of ideas and a guide in matters both academic and moral, and his heartfelt attachment to interfaith dialogue is matched only by his unrivaled generosity of spirit.”

- **Professor Lawrence Rosen, dedication, *Varieties of Muslim Experience: Encounters with Arab Political and Cultural Life*, 2008.**

“I owe a particular debt of gratitude to Akbar Ahmed for planting some of the book’s central ideas on the power of dialogue and the goal of mutual understanding as antidotes to clashes among civilizations, cultures, religions, nations, tribes, and individuals. He is an inspiring friend, an eloquent scholar of remarkable scope and depth, and a tireless warrior in the noble campaign to find lasting alternatives to war and solutions to the sources of alienation that breed terrorism. He has persuaded me that we need not consign ourselves to self-fulfilling prophecies of doom as inevitable, that if we must be in the business of making self-fulfilling prophecies it will be much more sensible to commit ourselves to healthy ones, while remaining vigilant to the reality of living in a world that includes dangerous fanatics.”

- **Professor Brian Forst, *Terrorism, Crime, and Public Policy*, Cambridge University Press, 2009.**

“Ambassador Douglas Holladay, Co-Chairman of the Buxton Initiative, spoke of the work of his good friend and colleague, Dr. Akbar Ahmed: “Akbar is God’s gift to America.”

- **[In response Charge d’ Affaires Aslam Khan of Pakistan later referred to Dr. Ahmed as his country’s “great gift to America.”]. Kaitlin Peterson on Buxton Dialogue, Pakistan Link, April 8, 2008.**

“I would like to second all the thanks and acknowledgments that my friend and dialogue partner, Akbar Ahmed has made in his last posting on this thread. The only problem I have dialoguing with Akbar is being unable to match his generosity, his friendship and his wisdom.”

- **Concluding remarks by Professor Judea Pearl after Jewish-Muslim dialogue with Professor Akbar Ahmed on BeliefNet, May 9, 2008.**

“Saint Francis University has several minors, one of the student’s favorites is in ‘Social Responsibility’. ‘Social Responsibility: a minor with a Conscience’ is the slogan on our t-shirt. When I was in Egypt this past summer, I noticed that we did not have a single Muslim among the many heroes of peace and justice on the back of the shirt. We have the Dalai Lama, Saint Francis, Dorothy Day, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, and many others. I don’t know how we left off Malcolm X. I am certain the Ambassador never expected to be nominated to be placed on a t-shirt tonight, but I am going to suggest that when we do the next version, Akbar Ahmed be among the heroes. He is truly one of the great voices on the planet calling for peace, compassion, and justice.”

- **Professor Michael McKale, *St. Francis University Ethics Lecture. Introduction*, 2008.**

“Professor Akbar Ahmed [has] always been a man of action apart from being acknowledged as the foremost Islamic thinker and scholar.”

- **Syed Arif Hussaini, “The Trial of Dara Shikoh – a Thought Provoking Play,” column, Pakistan Link, April 2008.**

“The main motivation behind this special number was the thought that, usually, journals devote special numbers to the contribution of scholars not in their life time. This journal feels strongly that such contributions should be recognized while the scholar is alive and still productive. This is the first special issue in the series of such numbers we have planned to bring out in the future... The material in this number has been chosen in such a way that the readers are able to know and appreciate not only the multi-faceted personality of Akbar Ahmed but also the amazing range of his contributions.”

- **Editor, Islam and Muslim Societies: A Social Science Journal, Volume 3, Number 2, 2007.**

“Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, holder of the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University, has written a profoundly personal and moving analysis... The author is a social scientist with the soul of a poet who has probably done more than any other scholar resident in the West to combat the egregious stereotypes and hate-mongering that are all too common in public-policy circles today... readers of this book may rejoice that such an individual moves among us.”

- **Antony T. Sullivan, book review, Middle East Policy Council Journal, Volume XV, Spring 2008, Number 1.**

“I deem it a distinct honor to be part of your noble endeavors. You are truly a north star, an international Muslim icon and a living legend that entire Muslim Umma is proud of your rich contributions for promoting Muslim image, interfaith understanding and harmony.”

- **Dr. Ashraf Abbasi, Chairman, Pakistani American Congress, USA.**

“Our guest is probably one of the world’s best-known scholars on Islam. You speak of education, you have just given us an education. Thank you.”

- **Dennis Wholey, “This is America”, PBS, December 13, 2007.**

“I genuinely hope you will consider a return trip in the future with your friends and family, and I hope you will allow us to call on you from time to time for advice and counsel. We are deeply

grateful to you for the rich, intelligent and soulful presentation. Your recorded lecture is wildly popular.”

- **Thomas Becker, President, Chautauqua Institution, August 7, 2007.**

“Professor Ahmed has been described as building bridges of understanding where others build walls of fear, and it is for his wisdom, his unfaltering moral compass, and his selfless contribution to the drive for dialogue and friendship between peoples of different backgrounds that we honour him. In a world that is getting ever smaller it is a contribution that was never more important than it is today ... Chancellor, in the name of the Council and Senate I present to you for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, in this University, Akbar Ahmed.”

- **Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Christopher Gaskell on conferment of honorary Doctorate of Laws, University of Liverpool, July 6, 2007.**

“Akbar Ahmed, the leading Islamic scholar in the world.”

- **Channel 5 TV, UK.**

“Tony Blair would do well to listen to Akbar Ahmed, one of the world’s leading authorities on Islam, when he takes up his new role as Middle East envoy in earnest.”

- **Anthea Lipsett, Education Guardian, June 28, 2007.**

“The leading thinker and scholar of contemporary Islam, Professor Akbar Ahmed.”

- **Jewish Chronicle, UK, November 16, 2006.**

“Professor Ahmed... a world authority on the subject” in “Islam’s Heritage, Christianity’s Future”

- **Judith Bumpus, The Art Newspaper, Vol. XVI, February 2007.**

Akbar Ahmed one of “three of Pakistan’s greatest diplomats”

- **page IX, Shameful Flight, by Stanley Wolpert, 2006.**

“Professor Akbar S Ahmed, arguably one of the most distinguished scholars that Pakistan has produced and certainly the only one with credibility in the West.”

- **Shahed Sadullah, The News, July 7, 2007.**

“Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to speak at the Joint Staff Distinguished Speakers Lecture Series on August 9, 2005. Your poignant remarks and expert perspective provided the military and civilian audience a greater understanding of Islam and its relationship with the Western world. You will be pleased to know the feedback I received gave you outstanding reviews for your informative lecture.”

- **General Myers while Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff.**

“I would like to thank you for helping to make our pane such a success, I was delighted to have the opportunity to hear you and your colleagues express so eloquently the importance of interfaith dialogue and understanding.”

- **Karen Hughes, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, May 3, 2006.**

“One of the most distinguished Muslim scholars today ...Professor Ahmed comes with impeccable credentials.”

- **Lord George Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. Pakistan Link, January 9, 2004.**

“Prof Akbar Ahmed, hailed long time ago as the most notable Muslim anthropologist since the legendary Ibn Khaldun.”

- **Ambassador Ghori, Pakistan Link, June 2, 2005.**

“He is my teacher and my friend; we have traveled and spoken together on numerous occasions ... His unfaltering moral compass has led him to many nations to speak on behalf of religious tolerance and human dignity. His courage is the only thing that equals that conviction for often his position has placed his safety in jeopardy, but he continues to travel the globe to bring peace and understanding ... I am honored as a rabbi and teacher here in Washington to have Dr. Ahmed join us, but even more, as the child of a survivor, I am so thankful that Akbar’s life work honors the memory of all who were lost due to hatred. May he continue to be blessed in his work and go from strength to strength.”

- **Bruce Lustig, Senior Rabbi of Washington Hebrew Congregation, June 17, 2006.**

“Thank you for speaking at the Council’s Eleventh National Conference. You helped make it our best one yet. Council members appreciated the opportunity to hear your insights and interact

with you. It was great to have you here. Thank you for doing this.”

- **Ambassador Richard Haass, President, Council on Foreign Relations, June 16, 2006.**

“I just completed the evaluation and you were the speaker the respondents liked best. Now that is an honor. Congratulations.”

- **Dr. Karen Collias, Program Director, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, wrote on June 24, 2006, after the conference in which he spoke alongside Richard Cheney, Vice President of the United States, Dr. Henry Kissinger and Professor Bernard Lewis.**

“The Committee is interested in your perspective as a highly respected Islamic scholar on the current struggle within Islam among moderates and more extreme factions, and its historical underpinnings. We also would like to hear your views on how the United States can approach building a closer, more productive long-term relationship with Muslim populations worldwide.”

- **Senator Richard G. Lugar, Chairman, The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, invited him to offer his “testimony,” July 18, 2006.**

“Akbar Ahmed – Judea Pearl dialogue at Hamilton.” “Ibn Khaldun once said ‘He who finds a new path is a pathfinder, even if the trail has to be found again by others; and he who walks far ahead of his contemporaries is a leader, even though centuries pass before he is recognized as such.’ Ibn Khaldun was talking about people like you. You are a pathfinder. By leading Jews and Muslims on the path toward greater mutual understanding, you walk far ahead of the world we live in, a world plagued on all sides by needless hatred. It may be a long time before Jews and Muslims learn to walk with each other on the path of peace and love. Be that as it may, you will be remembered in the future for being a pathfinder. It is my prayer that our world catches up with you speedily and in our lifetime. I know very little Arabic, but I know enough to say to you SHOOK- RAHN. Thank you, Dr. Ahmed, thank you very much.”

- **Leslie Lasky, President of the Greater Hamilton Jewish Federation, Hamilton Canada, November 12, 2006.**

“It is, I know, a veritable act of heresy to attribute to a faith a belief I know it does not hold. And yet it is hard to avoid the feeling that the author is the incarnation of those whom he has reason to most admire. Never having met Ibn Khaldun or Saladin, the great Mughal Akbar or the medieval social theorist al-Beruni, one comes away from every encounter with his work prepared to believe one has indeed encountered each of them reincarnated in Akbar Ahmed himself. So let me introduce you to this most genial and enlightened of guides, and through him,



as his friends and colleagues know so well, to yourself.”

- **Professor Lawrence Rosen of Princeton University, Forward of Discovering Islam, 2002.**

“At a time of great international unrest in which the issue of faith has risen up the agenda of us all, Professor Akbar Ahmed’s book *Discovering Islam* is essential reading for thinking people who wish to understand this great world religion. This is an incisive, intelligent book, and I am delighted to commend it.”

- **The Rtd. Hon. George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury. Back cover to Discovering Islam, 2002.**

“Akbar Ahmed became the first Muslim ever to speak to an Anglican Church Service continuing his almost lone crusade to present the true face of Islam in an attempt to rectify the much sullied image of the religion in the West...Ahmed’s courage in taking this giant leap forward in an interfaith dialogue of a new kind altogether is to be highly commended, as is the courage of those who invited him to speak.”

- **Shahed Sadullah, The News, May 21, 1996.**

“In recognition of the skill, sensitivity and perseverance with which he has sought to promote a more informed and balanced understanding of the World of Islam at a critical juncture in its relations with the West...His books and audio and visual media appearances all bear testimony to his mission as the Western world’s unofficial ambassador of the Muslim world.”

- **Official announcement of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs on the occasion of Ahmed being presented the Sir Percy Sykes Medal at the Savoy Hotel, The News, March 16, 1995.**

“Akbar Ahmed belongs to the pages of the Boy’s Own paper. Both scholar and administrator, both poet and man of action, he has, since going down from Cambridge, combined a glittering career in the tribal regions of the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan with a no more subordinate one as an anthropologist of international repute.”

- **Professor Francis Robinson, Foreword of Resistance and Control in Pakistan, Routledge, 1991.**

“At last! We can add a Pakistani name to the long list of administrator-scholars who have carved out brilliant names for themselves along the Frontier. The names of past greats roll off the tongue like Sir Lawrence Olivier spouting Shakespeare: Elphinstone and Edwardes...Howell and Caroe –

among others. None, however, have approached the Frontier which such qualifications as Akbar S. Ahmed. He is almost too good to be true.”

- **Professor Louis Dupree, “The Pukhtun De-romanticised,” July 11, 1980.**

### **Selected Comments on *Journey into Europe: Islam, Immigration, and Identity***

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“Ambassador Akbar Ahmed stands out among the global thinkers and leaders working to illuminate the way in our darkening landscape. His latest project on Muslims in Europe is yet another illustration of his vision by offering us understanding of, commitment to, and hope and compassion for humanity.”

- **Dr. Haris Silajdzic, former President and Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

“Akbar Ahmed has a well-earned reputation as one of the most balanced, learned and original interpreters of Islam in its engagement with the non-Muslim world. It is hard to exaggerate the importance of this work, like so much else he has done, at a time when myths and fantasies still stir up corporate fear between our communities. A deeply welcome and thoroughly professional study.”

- **Dr. Rowan Williams, Former Archbishop of Canterbury and Master of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge.**

“Akbar Ahmed’s profound and careful inquiries have greatly enriched our understanding of Islam in the modern world. His latest study, based on direct research with a group of young scholars, explores the complex interfaith reality of Europe, both in history and today, from an Eastern perspective, reversing the familiar paradigm. It is sure to be yet another influential contribution, one greatly needed in a world riven by conflicts and misunderstanding.”

- **Professor Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor & Professor of Linguistics (Emeritus), Massachusetts Institute of Technology.**

“A deeply engaged and brilliantly, executed book by one of our most distinguished anthropologists and public intellectuals. I know no other that throws as much light on the subject as it does. Read widely as it should be, it will make the world a less agonizing place.”

- **Baron Bhikhu Parekh, former Professor of Political Theory at the University of Hull, Vice-Chairman of the UK Commission for Racial Equality, Chairman of the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain, Centennial Professor in**

**the Study of Global Governance at the London School of Economics, and  
Professor Emeritus at the University of Westminster.**

“Ahmed’s splendid blend of scholarship and reportage is unmatched in the literature. Like his study of America, the readers will also perhaps think they know the local situation when it is exactly by revealing much that is below the surface for which Ahmed’s contribution is so vital. In the context of a series of elections now taking place in Europe that depend in no small part on the image of the Muslim migrant, this timely study is, like Ahmed’s other ventures, an indispensable accompaniment to any policy conversation. The Brookings Institution should take great pride in having facilitated this series and take special pride in its latest addition.”

- **Professor Lawrence Rosen, Cromwell Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University.**

“The Muslim world faces the most critical challenge in modern history with Islam under siege both from within and by the West, where Islamophobia is now widespread. Amid the unconscionable silence of Muslim political leadership and the faint voices of Islamic scholars, the inhumanity of radicals has come to represent Islam. Akbar Ahmed, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing since we trained together at the Civil Service Academy in Lahore half a century ago, has emerged to offer a rare voice of exceptional force, clarity, and dare I say sanity. His landmark study in four volumes representing outstanding scholarship should have a lasting historical impact in improving relations between Islam and the West and is indispensable reading.”

- **Touqir Hussain, Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, senior Pakistan visiting fellow at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and former Pakistani Ambassador and diplomatic adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan.**

### **Selected Comments on *The Thistle and the Drone***

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“There are specialists on tribal societies, especially Afghanistan and Pakistan, people like Akbar Ahmed, a highly respected anthropologist who has been trying for 20 years to get somebody to listen to this. There is a wonderful book about it called *The Thistle and the Drone*.”

- **Noam Chomsky, interview with *Gulf News*, 2021.**

The Brookings Institution just published “*The Thistle and the Drone*,” a highly praised anthropological study of tribal societies by Akbar Ahmed, subtitled “How America’s War on

Terror Became a Global War on Tribal Islam.” This global war pressures repressive central governments to undertake assaults against Washington's tribal enemies. The war, Ahmed warns, may drive some tribes “to extinction”—with severe costs to the societies themselves, as seen now in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. And ultimately to Americans.

Tribal cultures, Ahmed points out, are based on honor and revenge: “Every act of violence in these tribal societies provokes a counterattack: the harder the attacks on the tribesmen, the more vicious and bloody the counterattacks.”

- **Noam Chomsky, *In These Times*, 2014.**

“This is a book of genuinely global importance; by offering a fresh and entirely persuasive analysis of what the West habitually and superficially treats as ‘religiously motivated’ violence or terror, it demands an urgent rethinking of the disastrous strategies that have been used in the last decade to combat the threat of terrorist activity. Professor Ahmed combines a clear professional anthropological expertise with an equally clear, critical and humane moral perspective. This is an unusual and groundbreaking book, which should be compulsory reading for Western governments.”

- **Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and Master of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, UK.**

“In the end, like the Kurdish observers of Noor in Sulaimani in the book, I was close to tears. Lagrimas caudales or “flowing tears,” to use the apposite phrase of Blas de Otero, seems to be what the book’s conclusions lead to. This is particularly true if, like me, you have been very, very close to the center of decision making in the U.S. and you know how incapable it is of embracing such sophisticated reasoning, let alone developing and applying strategies in accordance with such reasoning. Thus, lagrimas for the tribes, for the soldiers, and for the United States. If one extrapolates from Professor Ahmed’s findings and from the history of torture as well, ‘bug splat’, as the victims of drone strikes are called, and torture live in the same house. Ahmed makes clear that, like torture, the creation of such profound fear wounds the creators as well—destroying their liberties, polluting their democracy, and devouring their souls. Professor Ahmed gives us the only way out of this dangerous dilemma, a way to coexist with the thistle without the drone.”

- **Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell and Professor of Government and Public Policy at the College of William and Mary.**

“I am moved, horrified and encouraged all at once. Above all, Professor Ahmed makes me proud to be an anthropologist!”

- **Professor Marilyn Strathern, DBE, former William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge and Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, UK.**

“From Akbar Ahmed, one of the wisest Muslim heads I know, a brilliant deconstruction of America’s drone attacks on targets in Pakistan and other Muslim societies across the world. His cogent account of how each attack detonates tribal threads, alienating and radicalising whole communities still further, is a must read.”

- **Jon Snow, presenter Channel 4/ITN News and former Chancellor Oxford Brookes University, UK.**

“I am reading *The Thistle and the Drone* and cannot put it down. Page after page, and in its totality, *The Thistle and the Drone* is bold, brilliant and compassionate all at once. This book deserves the Nobel Prize for peace.”

- **Professor Randolph Persaud, Director, Comparative and Regional Studies program, School of International Service, American University, Washington, DC.**

“*The Thistle and The Drone*...should be on the bookshelf of all Pakistanis who wish a life of peace for themselves and their neighbours.”

- **Khalid Aziz, former political agent, North Waziristan Agency and Chief Secretary, North-West Frontier Province, Pakistan, and Chairman, Regional Institute of Policy Research and Training, Peshawar, Pakistan, *The News*, March 17, 2013.**

### ***Selected Comments on *Journey into America****

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“I am delighted to have this opportunity to express my recognition and admiration for one of Pakistan’s most prominent Anthropologists. I found your book, which illuminates a critically important issue in today’s world, to be extremely gripping, engaging and thought provoking... I believe your book should be read by everyone committed to the effort of building the interfaith bridge of understanding.”

- **Mahmood Qureshi, Pakistan Foreign Minister, January, 2011.**

“An epic ... an instant classic ... a masterpiece ... Compared already, and rightly, to Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*, it brings to my mind *Moby Dick* as well. You can learn everything there is to learn about whales from *Moby Dick*, but in the process you learn about

everything else under the sun to boot.”

- **Introduction by Richard Kaplan, host of the Harvard Coop’s Author Events Series, December 1, 2010.**

“Akbar S Ahmed has done more than any other living Pakistani to challenge perceptions of Pakistan and Islam in the West. ... Dr Ahmed’s journey is in many ways more monumental than the 19th century French politician and author Alexis De Tocqueville’s journey and work on the US, which seems to have inspired Dr Ahmed. Akbar S Ahmed seems to have dedicated his entire life to the cause. ...Dr Ahmed and others like him stand firmly in the middle. The sanity and the future not just of inter-communal relations in the US but between the East and the West now hinges on the success of these dedicated middle-grounders. Only they have sufficient credibility to play bridge-builders.”

- **Review of Journey into America, Yasser Latif Hamdani, Daily Times, October 11, 2010.**

“He’s a very wonderful man ...it’s such an interesting study...it’s a great study and it completely drives home the incredible diversity of something that I think, in our eyes, we view as a monolith and anything that lends that, obviously, is very helpful.”

- **Jon Stewart, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, August 5, 2010.**

“He is the author of Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam. It’s a great book. Details so much – the struggles we are in right now in dealing with all these things around the world. Terrific read.”

- **John Roberts, CNN “American Morning”, August 17, 2010.**

"A wonderful book...it’s so comprehensive, it’s great."

- **Alisyn Camerota, Fox News, July 11, 2010.**

“Believe me, it’s a monumental, fascinating, wonderfully readable and engaging book,”

- **Maureen Fiedler, Interfaith Voices/NPR, August 1, 2010.**

“Dr. Akbar Ahmed has written a landmark work that must be read by every American if our nation is to re-affirm its commitment to the principles of American Democracy and its gift of sustaining religious plurality. Muslims in America are once again under the cultural microscope of a nation that has yet to recover emotionally from the horrors of 9/11. Driven by fear of the “other” and a lack of understanding about Islam and Muslims, America is at a crossroads. Can we live the high

ideals of America's founding fathers who cherished religious diversity? Or are we as a nation going to be influenced by another America, an America fueled by ignorance and religious xenophobia?"

- **The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, D.D., Episcopal Bishop of Washington, August 2010.**

### **Selected Comments on *Journey into Islam*:**

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"Akbar Ahmed's voice needs to be heard, and his courage strengthened."

- **Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Laureate.**

"This book is a breakthrough in our understanding of the complex relationships between globalizations and Islam...an essential resource for anyone interested in some of the key questions of our times, concerning not just the role of Islam in world society, but differing concepts of religiosity."

- **Lord Anthony Giddens, House of Lords and former Director of the London School of Economics.**

"For those of us who have been waiting patiently for Professor Ahmed's report from his journey to the Muslim world, the outcome was well worth the wait. This is a 'must' read for anyone concerned with the course of this planet."

- **Judea Pearl, UCLA and Daniel Pearl Foundation.**

"Akbar Ahmed is one of contemporary Islam's outstanding exponents: a role-model of reason in an age of anxiety, tolerance at a time of tension, and hope when all too many are tempted by despair. *Journey into Islam* is essential reading—wise, literate, insightful, optimistic, honest and humane, the work of one of the great religious sages of our time."

- **Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth.**

"A deeply moral work, informed by profound commitment to universal values of knowledge, justice, and compassion, all of which work to confirm Ahmed's position as preeminent Muslim public intellectual. Ultimately, a generous and empowering work which allows the kind of understanding that is transformative, *Journey into Islam* is as an extraordinary venture for its readers as it was for the students involved in its making."

- **Professor Tamara Sonn, College of William & Mary and former President of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies.**

“Like the students who went with him to see how Muslims are reacting to post-9/11 events, the reader could ask for no finer guide than Akbar Ahmed. In this eloquent and insightful study, Ahmed combines the erudition of a scholar with the passion of an activist to point the way towards understanding and reconciliation. It is a unique reading experience, rich in on-the-ground perception and realistic hope.”

- **Lawrence Rosen, Princeton University.**