

Fazlur Rahman Malik

Fazlur Rahman Malik (September 21, 1919 – July 26, 1988) was a well-known scholar of Islam.

Rahman was born in the Hazara area of British India (now Pakistan). His father, Maulana Shihab al-Din, was a well-known scholar of the time who had studied at Deoband and had achieved the rank of *alim*, through his studies of Islamic law (fiqh, hadith, Qur'anic tafsir, logic, philosophy and other subjects).

Rahman studied Arabic at Punjab University, and went on to Oxford University where he wrote a dissertation on Ibn Sina. Afterwards, he began a teaching career, first at Durham University where he taught Persian and Islamic philosophy, and then at McGill University where he taught Islamic studies until 1961.

In that year, he returned to Pakistan to head up the Central Institute of Islamic Research which was set up by the Pakistani government in order to implement Islam into the daily dealings of the nation. However, due to the political situation in Pakistan, Rahman was hindered from making any progress in this endeavour, and he resigned from the post. He then returned to teaching, moving to the United States and teaching at UCLA as a visiting professor for a few years. He moved to the University of Chicago in 1969 and established himself there becoming the Harold H. Swift Distinguished Service Professor of Islamic Thought. At Chicago he was instrumental for building a strong Near Eastern Studies Program that continues to be among the best in the world. Rahman also became a proponent for a reform of the Islamic polity and was an advisor to the State Department. He died in 1988.

Since Rahman's death his writings have continued to be popular among scholars of Islam and the Near East. His contributions to the University of Chicago are still evident in its excellent programs in these areas. In his memory, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago named its common area after him, due to his many years of service at the Center and at the University of Chicago at large.

Publications

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- *Major Themes of the Qur'an*, University of Chicago Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-226-70286-5
- *Revival and Reform in Islam* (ed. Ebrahim Moosa), Oneworld Publications, 1999. ISBN 1-85168-204-X
- *Islamic Methodology in History*, Central Institute of Islamic Research, 1965.
- *Health and Medicine in the Islamic Tradition*, Crossroad Pub Co, 1987. ISBN 0-8245-0797-5 (Hardcover), ISBN 1-871031-64-8 (Softcover).
- Riba and Interest, *Islamic Studies* (Karachi) 3(1), Mar. 1964:1-43.
- Shariah, Chapter from *Islam* [Anchor Book, 1968], pp. 117–137.