



The Children of Time: The Aga Khan and the Ismailis

By Malise Ruthven, Gerald Wilkinson

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From highland peasant farmers in Central Asia to Canadian industrialists, South Asian businessmen and Europe-based scholars, the Nizari Ismailis are one of the Muslim world's most diverse Shi'a communities. With adherents living in more than twenty-five countries in Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America, they embrace peoples of widely different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. The spiritual leadership of this highly dynamic community has in recent generations come to be known as the "Aga Khan." This book, which coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the present Aga Khan's succession as Imam, or spiritual leader, of the Ismailis, assesses the achievements of his "Imamat" in modernizing the communities' institutions and creating one of the world's leading development agencies, the Aga Khan Development Network.

Chapters on Ismaili history and theology explain how Ismaili interpretations of Islam under the Fatimid Caliphs (909-1171) and their immediate successors laid the intellectual foundations for the reforms instituted by the present Imam and his immediate predecessor Aga Khan III (1885-1957), the international statesman and leader of India's Muslims prior to World War II. Chapters on the Imamat of Aga Khan IV focus on achievements in architecture, conservation, health, education, rural development, and economic development, showing how his vision for the community and the network it sustains through charitable contributions is providing concrete, constructive solutions to problems of poverty, illiteracy, the status of women, and institutional under-development in Africa and Asia, including regions devastated by war, drought, malnutrition, government instability and high levels of seismic activity. The first study of the contemporary Ismaili community to have been authorized by the Harvard-educated Aga Khan, this book shows how a religious tradition rooted in a medieval theology that regarded 'aql - intellect - as a primary aspect of divinity has succeeded in embracing the modern world without loss of faith or cultural identity.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Malise Ruthven is one of the leading writers on Islam in English and is the author of *Islam in the World*, *A Fury for God: the Islamist Attack on America*, *Fundamentalism: A Very Short Introduction* and several other highly praised books.

Gerard Wilkinson had a distinguished thirty-year career with the Aga Khan in Kenya, Italy and latterly with his secretariat in France, where he was head of public affairs.

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This The Children of Time: The Aga Khan and the Ismailis book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is actually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Children of Time: The Aga Khan and the Ismailis without we understand teach the one who reading through it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry The Children of Time: The Aga Khan and the Ismailis can bring once you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cell phone. This The Children of Time: The Aga Khan and the Ismailis having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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