

the contribution of Ayatollah Ḥājj Āqā Ḥusayn Burūjirdī (1875-1961) to Shi'ī theology and to the development of the religious institution in 20th century Iran

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## The life and work of a Grand Ayatollah in historical context: the contribution of Ayatollah Ḥājj Āqā Ḥusayn Burūjirdī (1875-1961) to Shi'ī theology and to the development of the religious institution in 20th century Iran

### Abstract:

This thesis intends to explore the development of the Shi'ī religious institution in 20th century Iran through a case study of the life and work of Grand Ayatollah Burūjirdī (1875-1961), who was the head of the Qum Seminary for seventeen years (1944-1961) and was the pre-eminent *marja' al-taqlīd* of Iran from 1947 until his death. No serious academic study has been undertaken on Burūjirdī in English. This thesis draws on a range of primary sources (both written and oral), most...

Chaucer's contribution to English versification is no less striking than to the English language. Again, it is an instance of a happy choice. He sounded the death-knell of the old Saxon alliterative measure and firmly established the modern one. And Chaucer does not forget the universal beneath the particular, the dateless beneath the dated. The portraits of the pilgrims in the Prologue to The Canterbury Tales constitute not only an epitome of the society of fourteenth-century England, but the epitome of human nature in all climes and all ages. Grierson and Smith observe about Chaucer's pilgrims: "They are all with us today, though some of them have changed their names. The development of the petroleum industry led further to the constructions of railroads, buildings, medical facilities, and other infrastructure. More importantly, petrodollars that have since flown in made the oil-rich countries in the region prosperous, made social programs available, and improved the people's standard of living. Whether or not Western imperialism has been helpful to the overall development of the Middle East as a region and as a people is a source of continuing debate. The history of the 20th century was shaped by the changing relations of the world's great powers. The first half of the century, the age of the World Wars and. The unifications of Italy and Germany removed the congeries of central European principalities that dated back to the Holy Roman Empire, while the breakup of eastern and southeastern Europe into small and quarreling states (a process that would yield the term balkanization) was not far advanced. There the old empires, Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman (Turkish), still prevailed.

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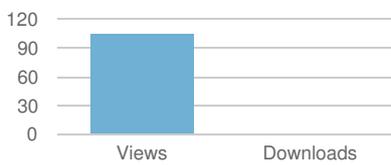
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