

*Akbar Ahmed - Curriculum Vitae*

**Akbar Ahmed, PhD**  
**Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies**  
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**Education**

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- 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: First in History and English).
- 1957-59 Senior Cambridge (1st Division, 4 Distinctions)/Higher Senior Cambridge (4 'A' levels, 2 Distinctions), Burn Hall, Abbottabad.

**Professional Career**

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- 2012 Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK (Michaelmas Term).
- 2009- Distinguished Visiting Affiliate, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
- 2008-2009 First Distinguished Chair for Middle East/Islamic Studies, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
- 2006- 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.

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- 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 in 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.

1966-2001 Member of the Civil Service of Pakistan, the senior-most service of the Central Superior Services of Pakistan.

## **Books**

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- 2013 *Knowledge: Why Civilizations Rise and Fall*, co-author Amineh Hoti (under preparation).
- 2013 *The Thistle and the Drone: How America's War on Terror Became A Global War On Tribal Islam*, Brookings Press: Washington DC.
- 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: London.
- 2007 *Journey into Islam: The Crisis of Globalization*, Brookings Press: Washington DC. Reprinted Penguin: India, 2007.
- 2007- *Waziristan to Washington: A Muslim at the Cross-Roads*, with Stephen Stern and John Milewski. One-man play on the life of Ahmed performed by him on various theatrical stages (ongoing script).
- 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.
- 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.

## *Akbar Ahmed - Curriculum Vitae*

- 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.

### **Chapters, Articles, Reviews, and Forewords**

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- 2012- Regular contributor: Op-Eds/Op-Ed Series, *Al-Jazeera Opinion*.
- 2011 “Why Jinnah Matters,” in *Pakistan: Beyond the Crisis State*, edited by Maleeha Lodhi. Columbia University Press: New York, 2011.
- 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 Shahrzad’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.
- 2010 “Inside America’s Mosques,” *Foreign Policy*, September 9.
- 2010 “Thomas Jefferson and Mohammed Ali Jinnah: Dreams from Two Founding Fathers,” *The Washington Post*, July 4.

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- 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: Interview with Akbar Ahmed.” *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 25, No. 5, October.
- 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 “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- Expert Panelist and Contributor, “On Faith,” *Washington Post* and *Newsweek*.
- 2006 “Uniting Over Jesus Christ”, with Alan Hertz, *Washington Times* Op-Ed, 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- Regular contributor to “On Faith”, *Washington Post*.
- 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.
- 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 Fatton Jr, Palgrave Macmillan: New York.
- 2002 “Discussing Inevitability,” *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 30.
- 2002 “Pakistan’s Blasphemy Law: Words Fail Me,” *The Washington Post*, May 19.

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- 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, page 212-216.
- 1996 "Islam," *World Book International Year Book*.
- 1996 "Towards the Global Millennium: The Challenge of Islam," *The World Today*: London, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, 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 "Great Religions Must be Built on Respect for All," *The Times: Credo*, August 26.
- 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.

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- 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: Comment and Analysis*, 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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- 2014 Panel on the themes of *The Thistle and the Drone*, International Studies Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 26-29.
- 2013 Public Lecture – *Muslim Tribes and the War on Terror: The Thistle and the Drone*, Brunei Hall, SOAS, London, UK, June 29.
- 2013 Keynote Address – *Muslim Tribes and the War on Terror*, Chatham House, London, UK, June 25.

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- 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



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- 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, 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.

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- 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. (Short-list 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.
- 1992-99 Member, informal Islamic advisory group to HRH.

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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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2012 Interviewed Debra Scroggins on her new book *Wanted Women*, C-Span's Book TV (Third such interview as host).

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*, PBS, NPR, VOA (English, Urdu, Pukhto), The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Daily Show, C-Span, History Channel, National Geographic Channel, Tavis Smiley Show, and Milt Rosenberg Show.

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.

2002-2006 Regular syndicated columnist for the Religion News Service.

### **Films/ Documentaries**

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2012- *Maryam*, feature film in developmental stage. Executive producer and co-script writer.

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.

1980s *Afghan Exodus*, *Khyber*, and *The Pathans*. Documentaries by Dr. Andre Singer. Consultant.

### **Service**

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2011-2013 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).

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- 2007-2009    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-        Trustee, Board of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.  
2007        "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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- 2011        Winner of the National Book Award for *Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam*.  
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/book by John Esposito,  
Georgetown University).
- 2009        The 12<sup>th</sup> 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        Inaugural 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.

## *Akbar Ahmed - Curriculum Vitae*

- 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.

### **Professional Memberships**

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

**Appendix: Comments on Akbar Ahmed and his Work**

**Comments on *The Thistle and the Drone: How America's War on Terror Became a Global War on Tribal Islam***

- “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**

- “A masterpiece... *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**

### **Comments on *Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam***

- “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 Kaplin, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **Comments on Akbar Ahmed**

- “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.**
- “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.” **Professor Stanley Wolpert, in introducing Ahmed at lunch in his honor, hosted by Pakistan Link Publications, *Pakistan Link*, December, 30 2011.**
- “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  
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.**

- Ahmed and his family were honored at the National Cathedral in the Fall: "We are delighted to be honoring you and your family at the 29th InterFaith Concert at the Washington National Cathedral on Tuesday, **November 18, 2008**... The Concert is a great celebration of the sacred in song, dance and chant of 9 world religions... this is the first time we have ever honored a family! What better choice could we have made?! Our Board of Directors clearly answered that question!" **Rev. Clark Lobenstine, Executive Director, InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, November 18, 2008.**
- Akbar Ahmed the world's leading authority on contemporary Islam." **BBC, Radio 2, "Good Morning Sunday", October 24, 2004.**
- "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.**
- "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).**
- "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.**
- "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.**

- “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 recognise 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 extremes, 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.**
- “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.**
- “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 students 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. Special Number: Akbar Ahmed’s Journey into Islam.**
- “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” by 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 panel .... 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.**
- One of the UK’s leading Muslim magazines, had a feature story with illustrations and called him “the new Ibn Khaldun.” ***Emel*, Nov/Dec 2004.**
- “Prof Akbar Ahmed, hailed long time ago as the most notable Muslim anthropologist since the legendary Ibn Khaldun.” “Commentary,” **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.” **“Thank You Speech” by 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.” **Foreword by Professor Lawrence Rosen of Princeton University to *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 Right 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.” From **“Akbar Ahmed’s unique first in interfaith dialogue” by 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.” **Foreword by Professor Francis Robinson, *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.” **“The Pukhtun De-romanticised” by Professor Louis Dupree, *The Muslim* week-end special, July 11, 1980.**