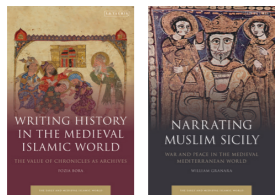


Of the available sources for Islamic history between the seventh and eighth centuries CE, few are of greater importance than *al-Baladhuri's Kitab Futuh al-buldan* (*The Book of the Conquest of Lands*). Written in Arabic by a ninth-century Muslim scholar working at the court of the 'Abbasid caliphs, the *Futuh's* content covers many important matters at the beginning of Islamic history. It informs its audience of the major events of the early Islamic conquests, the settlement of Muslims in the conquered territories and their experiences therein, and the origins and development of the early Islamic state. Questions over the text's construction, purpose, and reception, however, have largely been ignored in current scholarship. This is despite both the text's important historical material and its crucial early date of creation. It has become commonplace for researchers to turn to the *Futuh* for information on a specific location or topic, but to ignore the grander – and, in many ways, more straightforward – questions over the text's creation and limitations. This book corrects these gaps in knowledge by investigating the context, form, construction, content, and early reception history of al-Baladhuri's text.

**RYAN J. LYNCH** is Assistant Professor of History at Columbus State University, USA. A specialist in early Islamic history and early Arabic historiography, he received his DPhil from the University of Oxford. His research has appeared in journals such as *the Journal of the American Oriental Society* and in reference publications such as *the Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*.

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ISBN 978-1-83860-439-4



9 781838 604394

ARAB CONQUESTS AND EARLY ISLAMIC HISTORIOGRAPHY



RYAN J. LYNCH

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# ARAB CONQUESTS AND EARLY ISLAMIC HISTORIOGRAPHY

THE FUTUH AL-BULDAN OF AL-BALADHURI

RYAN J. LYNCH

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# Arab Conquests and Early Islamic Historiography

*The Futūḥ al-Buldan of al-Baladhuri*

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Bloomsbury Publishing Plc  
50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, UK  
1385 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, USA

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First published in Great Britain 2020

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Series design by [www.paulsmithdesign.com](http://www.paulsmithdesign.com)

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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN: HB: 978-1-8386-0439-4  
ePDF: 978-1-8386-0441-7  
eBook: 978-1-8386-0440-0

Typeset by Deanta Global Publishing Services, Chennai, India  
Printed and bound in Great Britain

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*For Jackie*



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## Acknowledgements

The following research was my doctoral dissertation, originally submitted to the University of Oxford. It went through a great many changes between my original submission and its approval, and subsequently, its publication as this monograph. No research is perfect, and certainly, the remaining imperfections here are my fault alone. Should the reader find any form of insight or wisdom in the pages herein, however, the debt is largely owed to the direction of Robert Hoyland and Harry Munt. Both Robert and Harry were equally crucial in guiding me towards a study of al-Balādhurī, and I will be forever grateful for all that they continue to do to support me. Robert's masterful command of sources and his own intellectual curiosity are everything that a junior scholar needs from his teacher. Through Harry, I learned the fundamentals of what it means to be an Islamic historian along with my love of Arabic historiography.

A special debt is also owed to those who examined this research at various stages throughout the writing process, but especially to Christopher Melchert and Andrew Marsham, who helped to correct many (many) mistakes in the final drafts. Philip Booth, Julia Bray, and Marie Legendre examined this research at the earlier stages. The feedback from all of them was incredibly important in correcting errors and omissions and in guiding my writing forward towards completion.

I also owe countless thanks to the exceptional colleagues and friends that I made over the years of transitioning from student to scholar. Joshua Olsson was with me throughout the entire journey from graduate student to professor, constantly challenging my preconceived ideas about Islamic history and subsequently convincing me that remaining an academic was what I really wanted. No one has taught me more about being a historian than he has. Nicola Clarke nurtured my interests and always treated my ideas equally, yet critically, while helping me realize that I could study what I *wanted* to research. Nadia Jamil gave me the language tools necessary to work independently. Wahid Amin, Talal al-Azem, Antoine Borrut, Anna Chrysostomides, Nicholas Evans, Geert Jan van Gelder, Hannah Hagemann, Andy Hilken, Marek Jankowiak, Taj Kandoura, Hugh Kennedy, Tom MacMaster, Michael Maher-King, Julian May, Roy Michael McCoy, Leyla Najaf-Zada, Nassima Neggaz, Salam Rassi, Adam Talib,

Luke Treadwell, Alison Vacca, and Edward Zychowicz-Coghill, all provided attention and insight at various times, whether in the classroom, at conferences, or through conversations over a drink. Umberto Bongianino was integral in assisting me on how best to describe the scripts of the manuscripts discussed in Chapter 1. I am indebted to Sarah Bowen Savant, Maxim Romanov, and the rest of the exciting *KITAB* Project's members for much of the data concerning *Futūh* reuse discussed in Chapter 6. I am thankful to Asma Afsaruddin, Michael Cook, and Stephen Humphreys for their comments on my chapter on genre during a brief presentation at the 2014 MESA annual meeting.

Additionally, there is a very long list of friends and family members who have supported me in various ways throughout my career: Ross Alexander, Hassan Ali Ahmad, Estara Arrant, Will Badger, Elissa Barche, Thomas Barche, Benedict Bernstein, Jim Cortier, Jo Cortier, DJ Deaton, Cara DeQuarto, Christine DeQuarto, Joann DeQuarto, Jon Hallahan, Sarah Hammond, Greg Hauenstein, Christa Heckman, Ishtar Hernandez, Dana Johnston, Casey Jones Toth, Jack Kelly, Eric Kurlander, Harry Long, Morgan Long, James Lynch, Janis Lynch, Jesse Napolitano, Dmitri Macmillen, Tom McLachlan, Charlie Mercer, James Morrow, Jeremy Papadinis, Rebecca Papadinis, Katie Perry, Katie Rash, Colin Ramsay, Kimberly Reiter, Anthony Salvatore, Matt Sherman, Kameron St. Clare, Hasnayn Syed, Kerri Taylor, Margaret Venzke, Isha Vicaria, and Linda Weser.

My research was generously supported by scholarships and studentships from Pembroke and Wolfson Colleges, Oxford, which were also my very welcoming homes throughout my years in England. I owe special thanks to the staff of both colleges as well as to the librarians at the Oriental Institute Library, but especially to my colleagues in the IT Team at Wolfson: Stephen Gower and Phil Nixon. Without their patience and support, I would not have been able to make the most of my time in Oxford.

Since arriving at Columbus State University, I have benefitted from the collegiality and supportive environment of my colleagues and students in the Department of History and Geography as I worked towards bringing this monograph to publication. We fail and succeed as a team, and I am thankful to have such great colleagues in Bryan Banks, Sarah Bowman, Patty Chappel, Dan Crosswell, John Ellisor, Brad Huff, Amanda Rees, Eric Spears, Gary Sprayberry, and Doug Tompson. I am also thankful for the support of the CSU Center for Global Engagement and the family of J. Kyle and Sarah Spencer, whose endowment of the Spencer House in Oxford has allowed me to continue my research at the Oriental Institute.

The greatest debt, however, is certainly owed to my family. My father, Raymond, was the catalyst for my love and appreciation of history. He set me on the path and gave me the skills to make my own way, although he did not live to walk that entire road with me. My mother, Florence, has sustained and believed in me at every step of this journey, and has ensured I worked hard to live up to the high standards she has always set for me. My brother, Shane, has always been what a younger brother should be: a wonderful distraction from work, and a reminder that life is more than just the job. My wife, Jackie, faithfully travelled across the world to support me and has brought so much joy to my academic life while equally bearing the burdens of frustration and uncertainty that come along with it. For that and more, she deserves the greatest praise and thanks of all.