

Al-Buhūtī's teachings continue to be fundamental to Ḥanbalī learning across the countries of the Arabian Peninsula today, particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His book *al-Rawḍ al-murbi'* serves as the basis of juridical learning in *sharī'a* colleges and mosque scholarly circles in Saudi Arabia. In 1347/1928, the highest juridical committee in what was then the Kingdom of the Hijaz and the Sultanate of Najd (present-day Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) established two of al-Buhūtī's works (*Sharḥ Muntahā l-irādāt* and *Kashshāf al-qinā'*) as the primary references for judges in Saudi courts, a status that these works still hold.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SAUD AL-SARHAN

## Buzurg 'Alavī

**Buzurg 'Alavī** (1904–97) was a prominent Iranian writer and political intellectual. Born in Tehran in 1904 to a well-to-do merchant family committed to the Constitutional Revolution (1906–11), 'Alavī was sent to Germany for the purposes of education. Returning to Iran in 1929, he taught German in Shīrāz and Tehran and became a close friend and colleague of the famous writer Ṣādiq Hidāyāt (d. 1951) along with three other young

intellectuals. The four intellectuals nicknamed their group as *rab'a* (group of four). 'Alavī also joined the small circle of Taqī Arānī (d. 1940), a German-educated Marxist scientist and intellectual. Arānī, 'Alavī, and the Qājār nobleman and later communist Īraj Iskandarī (d. 1985) edited and published the covertly leftist journal *Dunyā* ("The world"), most of whose subscribers were unaware of its leftist stance. Arānī's circle was discovered quite by chance in 1937 and fifty-three young men who had been subscribers of *Dunyā* were arrested and wrongfully charged with belonging to a communist organisation. 'Alavī was one of the first to be arrested and tortured. His interrogators pressured him to reveal the identity of the "secret committee," which was in fact nothing but the signature on a poison pen letter of a disgruntled student. 'Alavī was convicted of being a member of a proscribed organisation and sentenced to a seven-year jail term, but was released in 1941, in the wake of the Allied invasion of Iran and the abdication of Riḍā Shāh (r. 1925–41).

In the same year, the Tūda party—at first a kind of popular front but later a communist party—was founded and 'Alavī was one of its founding members. However, later in the 1960s he was alienated from it and still later, in the twilight of his life, regretted that he had ever converted to communism and joined the Tūda. 'Alavī was in Europe shortly before the 1953 coup that overthrew the government of Muḥammad Muṣaddīq (d. 1967) and that led to the suppressing of the Tūda party and the National Front. As a member of the central committee of the former, 'Alavī would undoubtedly have been arrested on returning to Iran and so he chose to remain abroad. Settling in East Berlin, 'Alavī became a professor of