

Ibn Aşur, Muhammed Fazıl

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MADE YAYIMLANDIKTAN  
SONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

## I

## Ibn 'Āshūr, al-Fāḍil

Muḥammad al-Fāḍil Ibn 'Āshūr (1909–70) was a Tunisian intellectual, political activist, Mālikī jurist, and professor at the Zaytūna (Zitouna) University in Tunis. He is the author of several books on the intellectual history of Tunisia and the wider Maghrib in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In the last two decades of French colonial rule (1940s–1950s), he played a critical public role as a public intellectual with an important following in progressive religious circles. His criticism of colonialism and his promotion of Tunisia's Arab-Islamic identity earned him the hostility of French authorities and the distrust of secular-minded nationalists. As a jurist, he held the positions of Mālikī *qāḍī* (judge) of Tunis and *muftī* of the Republic of Tunisia (1962–70). In addition to his classes at the Zaytūna, Ibn 'Āshūr taught at the Ṣādiqiyya and the Khaldūniyya schools in Tunis.

Ibn 'Āshūr was born in La Marsa, on the outskirts of Tunis, to a prominent Tunisian family of Andalusī descent. His father, Muḥammad al-Tāhir Ibn 'Āshūr (d. 1973), was a renowned Islamic

reformer and Mālikī *muftī* (1923–32) who held the position of Mālikī *shaykh al-Islām* (1932–48) and rector of the Zaytūna University (1932, 1945–56). As was traditional in his family, he enrolled at the Zaytūna, where he studied with prominent Tunisian '*ulamā*' (religious scholars) including his father and others, such as Muḥammad b. al-Qāḍī (d. 1932) and Muḥammad al-Nakhīlī (d. 1924). He obtained his first-level diploma (*taṭwīl*) from the Zaytūna in 1928 and began teaching at the university in 1932.

In the 1930s, Ibn 'Āshūr began giving public lectures and writing for Islamic periodicals such as *al-Majalla al-Zaytūniyya*. In 1931, he attended the first Congress of North African Muslim Students (20–24 August 1931), where he called for the reform of Arabic-language education in the Maghrib. In the interwar period, more than eighty percent of Zaytūna graduates were unemployed. They organised frequent demonstrations asking for educational reform and employment opportunities. In this context, Ibn 'Āshūr, whose father was the leader of the Zaytūna's pro-reform camp, became popular amongst the students. In 1945, he was appointed