

al-talib **التاليب**
THE MUSLIM NEWSMAGAZINE AT UCLA 'the student'



THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS
OF THE 20TH CENTURY

20th Century Revivalists

Individuals Inspiring the Entire Ummah

When Kamal Attaturk came to power he succeeded in completing a process which had been initiated when the Crusaders first set foot in Jerusalem: robbing the Muslim people of any sovereignty. The coming of the Crusaders and centuries of colonialism culminated in Attaturk's successful purging of the Islamic spirit and any hope of return to an Islamic golden age.

In addition, Attaturk dealt the final blow to the hopes of an Islamic State by destroying the last vestiges of the institution of the *khilafah* (caliphate). Western secularism pervaded the Muslim psyche. The once-united *Ummah* (community) was split into independent states that were gripped by nationalistic fervor. This marked the first time in Islamic history that there was no central figure to whom the Ummah could look to. The re-establishment of the Islamic State became paramount.

This was the environment in which revivalists of the 20th century arose. Towering figures like Hasan al-Banna of Egypt, whose goal was to establish an Islamic State, formed *al-Ikhwan al-*

Muslimin (the Muslim Brotherhood) to achieve this goal. In Pakistan, Sayyid Abul 'Ala Mawdudi formed *al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyyah* (the Islamic Association) to achieve similar goals for his country. Meanwhile, Sayyid Qutb, a member of al-Banna's Ikhwan, revived Islamic thinking with his prolific writing. There were leaders like Ayatullah Khomeini who were able to inspire an entire nation of people to rise up against an oppressor. In America, Malik al-Shabazz (Malcolm X) demonstrated the liberating power of Islam. Last, but not least, there were women like Zaynab al-Ghazali, who served as a shining role model for the Ummah.

These are only a handful of the vast number of Muslims who have served throughout history to revive the Islamic spirit. The lessons to be learned from their stories are valuable and numerous. The struggles they endured serve as inspiration to anyone who dreams of returning to the golden age of Islamic civilization.

It is significant to note that all of these revivalists were imprisoned at some point in their lives. It illustrates how threatening the word of truth is to forces that upheld



Sayyid Qutb, like all the revivalists mentioned in this issue, spent time in prison. In this photograph, Qutb is sentenced to imprisonment that ultimately led to his torture and execution by the Egyptian government.

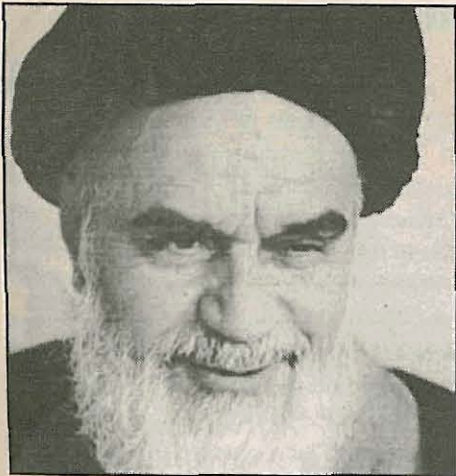
oppression. It also illustrates how the path to establishing justice is not an easy one.

Although many Muslims may disagree or criticize certain actions and opinions of these revivalists, it must be noted that their examples have inspired the Ummah. The models that they set forth will continue to revive Muslims for generations to come, insha' Allah.

Jazakum Allahu khayran.
—The Al-Talib staff

The Decision to Print Khomeini

Perhaps the most difficult decision in the production of this issue was whether or not to include an article about Ayatullah Khomeini. The difficulty lied in the con-



trovery surrounding him. To print an article about him would offend a portion of our readers. Censoring such an article, however, would overlook his influence and offend others. Whether we agree with his views or not, we simply cannot ignore his monumental achievements. Allah allowed him to motivate the hearts of millions to rise up against an oppressor and establish a state based upon their understanding of Islam — whether we agree with it or not.

We also to take into account the fact that the controversy surrounding him could have been directly related to his influence, seeing as how throughout history, the most influential people necessarily become the most controversial.

Many of us have grown up associating evil with Khomeini, due to the influence of the Western media. However, even *Time* magazine realized the extent of his influ-

ence and lauded him the 1979 Man of the Year.

As Aslam Abdullah, the editor of the *Minaret* magazine, wrote, "What Khomeini did was something his predecessors had only dreamt. Khomeini proved that Islam was still able, after 14 centuries, to mobilize the masses to replace an oppressive political power rooted in corruption. Khomeini reintroduced Islam as a liberating force. He may be criticized for one view or another by many Muslims, but his influence in shaping the modern Muslim political thought will always be acknowledged."

In the end, it is up to you, the reader, if you agree with the decision to print Khomeini or not. We welcome your feedback.

Jazakum Allahu khayran.
—The Al-Talib staff

Al-Talib exists to serve the needs of the UCLA Muslim community, the general Muslim community, and the general non-Muslim community. It is an independent forum for a diverse spectrum of views and concerns. *Al-Talib* serves to educate about Islam and Muslim cultures. *Al-Talib* corrects the mainstream media's misinformation about Islam and Muslim people. *Al-Talib* is the first publication of its kind in the United States — a newsmagazine run by volunteer students dedicated to Muslim issues.

Unsigned editorial represents a majority opinion of the *Al-Talib* Editorial Board. All other columns, cartoons, and letters represent the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Al-Talib* Editorial Board. The ASUCA Communications Board has a media grievance procedure for resolving grievances against any of its publications. For a copy of the complete procedure, contact the Publications Office at 118 Kerckhoff Hall.

118 Kerckhoff Hall • 308 Westwood Plaza

Los Angeles, CA 90024

Phone (310)206-7877 • Fax (310)206-3165

altalib@media.ucla.edu

http://www.altalib.media.ucla.edu

altalib 
THE MUSLIM NEWSMAGAZINE AT UCLA
"the student"

editor

Ahmed Shama

managing editor

Amina El-Mahdy

business manager

Arif Shaikh

staff editors

Rima Assaf

Nicholle Safavi

Ben Wang

design manager

Omar Hamoui

copy editors

Sawssan Ahmed

Arshad Ali

Sharif El-Akabawi

Haseena Mirza

Ali Shaikley

Hoda Shawky

graphics

Amy El-Akabawi

Haseena Mirza

Lynn Salahi

public relations manager

Lynn Salahi

distribution

Masood Khan

Omar Mahmood

Talha Rizvi

writers

Aslam Abdullah

Hamid Algar

Ahtsham Ali

Zakiyyah Ali

Shahin Ashraf

Rasha al-Disqui

Omar Hamoui

Abu Hassan

Khalid Hassan

Tahira Hoke

Munira Lekovic

Mohamed Marei

'Abd-ur Rahman O'Beirne

J. Jioni Palmer

Talha Rizvi

Ali B. Shuja

special thanks

Chris Bates

Meri-Louise Harrison

Gasser Hathout

Maher Hathout

Edina Lekovic

Munira Lekovic

Jaime Maldonado

Jehangir Malik

Misty Patrick

Trends Magazine

Arvli Ward