BOOK REVIEW

The Economic Survey of Muslim Countries by Mr. S.S. Fatimi is most welcome. Since this book remains a survey it sets a problem to the reviewer. How does one survey a Survey? There are some who do it in a microscopic manner looking for errors and omissions but Mr. Fatimi’s knowledge in this field has closed this route to me.

It is fortunate that Mr. Fatimi is the first Muslim author projecting Muslim point of view which surprisingly has been given so little attention by Economists and Scholars from the Muslim world. This study contains useful economic data, it is written in readable style, the facts and figures presented are well organised and quite comprehensive. He has a wonderful clarity of thought and a power of adhering to essentials. In all fairness to Mr. Fatimi this work fulfils a real need. In the whole book we find that Mr. Fatimi has surveyed only 36 Muslim countries and what about the remaining six. Whether this omission is due to his never having considered such matters or studied the relevant literature, it is impossible for me to judge. The students of Muslim world economics will be greatly benefitted if the remaining countries are also included in subsequent edition. The reviewer is surprised to find advertisements after every page or two. How about placing them at the end of the book in reprints. There is little question that this book should be on the shelf of every graduate student and for those specialising in the area of Muslim world economics, the intended audience. It would be an excellent text for a graduate survey course on Muslim world economics. It will also direct them toward probable thesis topics and advance our understanding of the various economic problems the Muslim world is faced with. Taken as a whole, Mr. Fatimi has produced a timely, thoughtful and provocative book which should find a wide international readership among students, scholars and general readers.

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