

Reforming and Reinterpreting the Faith: Ahmadiyya Perspective
on the Theology and Practice of Jihad

Naeema Madiha Bari

A thesis

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

Requirements for the degree of

Master of Philosophy in Social and Cultural Anthropology

Bahria University, Islambad

2015

Committee:

Prof. Dr. Iqbal Saif

Dr. Huma Haque

Dr. Rao Nadeem Alam

Program Authorized to Offer Degree:

Humanities and Social Sciences

Acknowledgement

I will always be indebted to all my teachers for everything that they taught me. First and foremost, however, I owe gratitude to Dr. Huma Haque, a teacher, mentor, and a friend for her unrelenting support and encouragement. I would also like to mention a few other names for the knowledge they imparted, and offering unfaltering conviction in my abilities which has been a great source of encouragement. I am grateful to Faisal Buzdar, Ayesha Innayat, Tooba Shakoor, Shiraza Shakeel and Fouzia Qayyum to mention a few.

I am also grateful to all my informants for their hospitality and patience while I pestered them with my questions. I am especially grateful to Mian Fazal and Mubasshar Ayaz in Rabwah for the support they offered to assist and facilitate me. I am thankful to Mr. Inaam Ghouri for the assistance and support offered in Qadian. I particularly appreciate the enthusiasm of the elderly darveshes in Qadi'an, all of whom gave me so much time despite personal health concerns.

Last but not least, I am eternally indebted to my parents for providing guidance, support, mentorship, and for believing in me and encouraging me.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Statement of the Problem.....	8
1.1.1. Definitions of blanket terms	8
1.1.2. Islam.....	8
1.1.3. Reform	9
1.1.4. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community	10
1.1.5. Jihad.....	11
1.2. Units of Data Collection	14
1.3. Methods and Methodology	15
1.3.1. Methodology/Research Design	15
1.3.2. Methods.....	20
1.3.3. Sampling	25
1.4. Locale.....	28
1.4.1. Rabwah	28
1.4.2. Qadian.....	33
2. Review of Literature.....	37
2.1. Religion.....	38
2.2. Islam	49
2.3. Reform Movements	58
2.4. Ahmadiyya as Reform Movement.....	71
2.5. Jihad.....	90
2.6. Theoretical Framework	107
3. Data Presentation	127

3.1. Religious Inspiration & Divine Faith	128
3.2. Reformist Islam & the Ahmadiyya Community	140
3.3. Ahmadiyya Narrative & Practice of Jihad	147
4. Data Analysis	170
4.1. Islam as a Religion	171
4.2. Ahmadiyya as a Reform Movement	178
4.3. Narrative and Practice of Jihad	185
Bibliography	193
<i>Appendices</i>	205