

# Theology of Discontent

The Ideological Foundations of the  
Islamic Revolution in Iran

*Hamid Dabashi*



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS  
NEW YORK AND LONDON

# Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xiii
A Note on Transliteration	xvii
Chronology of the Revolution: 1921–1979	xix
Introduction: Formative Forces of “the Islamic Ideology”	1
1 Jalal Al-e Ahmad: The Dawn of “the Islamic Ideology”	39
2 Ali Shari‘ati: The Islamic Ideologue Par Excellence	102
3 Morteza Motahhari: The Chief Ideologue of the Islamic Revolution	147
4 Sayyid Mahmud Taleqani: The Father of the Revolution	216
5 Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Hossein Tabataba’i: The Philosophical Dimension of “the Islamic Ideology”	273
6 Mehdi Bazargan: The Devout Engineer	324
7 Abolhasan Bani-Sadr: The Monotheist Economist	367
8 Ayatollah Khomeini: The Theologian of Discontent	409
Conclusion: Dimensions of “the Islamic Ideology”	485
Notes	523
Bibliography	595
Index	623