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THE GREAT SCHOLARS OF IX-XII CENTURIES IN MOVAROUNNAHR AND
KHURASAN

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***Annotation:** This article explores the great scholars of the 9th to 12th centuries in Movarounnahr and Khurasan, two historically significant regions of Central Asia and Persia. It provides an overview of Movarounnahr and Khurasan, highlighting their cultural and intellectual significance during this period. The article then delves into the achievements and contributions of prominent scholars who emerged from these regions, focusing on their advancements in various fields such as philosophy, science, literature, and Islamic scholarship. Through an examination of their works and influence, this article sheds light on the rich intellectual heritage of Movarounnahr and Khurasan during the medieval period.*

***Keywords:** Movarounnahr, Khurasan, great scholars, 9th-12th centuries, philosophy, science, literature, Islamic scholarship.*

Movarounnahr and Khurasan were two important regions in Central Asia and Persia during the 9th to 12th centuries. These regions were centers of cultural and intellectual activity, attracting scholars from various disciplines. This article aims to explore the great



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scholars who emerged from Movarounnahr and Khurasan during this period, highlighting their contributions to philosophy, science, literature, and Islamic scholarship.

Movarounnahr and Khurasan: Movarounnahr, meaning "Transoxiana," referred to the region located between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, encompassing parts of present-day Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Khurasan, on the other hand, was a historical region in northeastern Iran, encompassing parts of present-day Iran, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan. Both regions were known for their strategic location along the Silk Road, which facilitated cultural exchange and intellectual development.

Khurasan, located in northeastern Iran, spanned across regions in present-day Iran, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan. It held strategic importance as a crossroads between the East and the West, facilitating trade and cultural interactions. Khurasan was renowned for its cities like Nishapur and Merv, which flourished as centers of learning and intellectual activity. The region witnessed the establishment of several influential Islamic empires, including the Abbasids and the Ghaznavids, who provided patronage to scholars and intellectuals.

Great Scholars of IX-XII Centuries in Movarounnahr and Khurasan:

1. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni (973-1048): Al-Biruni was a polymath from Khurasan known for his contributions to astronomy, mathematics, geography, and anthropology. His works include "The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology," "The Canon Masudicus," and "The Chronology of Ancient Nations." Al-Biruni's thirst for knowledge led him to study and master a wide range of subjects. He traveled extensively throughout Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent, where he immersed himself in the local cultures and traditions. His travels provided him with the opportunity to gather valuable data and conduct scientific observations. Al-Biruni's mathematical works covered various topics, such as algebra, trigonometry, arithmetic, and geometry. He introduced the concept of trigonometric functions and made advancements in spherical trigonometry. His book "Al-Qanun al-



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Mas'udi" (The Mas'udi Canon) provided a comprehensive overview of mathematics at the time and served as a reference for later scholars. Al-Biruni's contributions to geography were remarkable. He wrote extensively about the physical and cultural geography of different regions, including India. His book "Kitab al-Hind" (The Book of India) is a notable work that provides a detailed account of the Indian subcontinent, covering its geography, history, customs, religions, and social practices. This work remains an invaluable source of information for historians and anthropologists. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni's works were characterized by meticulous observation, rigorous analysis, and a deep appreciation for different cultures. His contributions significantly advanced scientific knowledge during the Islamic Golden Age and influenced subsequent generations of scholars.

2. Ibn Sina (980-1037): Also known as Avicenna, Ibn Sina was a renowned philosopher, physician, and scientist from Khurasan. His influential works, such as "The Canon of Medicine" and "The Book of Healing," made significant contributions to medicine, philosophy, and metaphysics. Ibn Sina's works greatly influenced both Eastern and Western intellectual traditions.
3. ¹Al-Farabi (872-950): Al-Farabi, born in Farab (in present-day Kazakhstan), was a philosopher and polymath who spent much of his life in Movarounnahr. He wrote extensively on logic, political philosophy, and ethics. His notable works include "The Book of Letters" and "The Virtuous City." . Al-Farabi's contributions greatly impacted Islamic philosophy and political theory.
4. Omar Khayyam (1048-1131): Khayyam, born in Nishapur (in present-day Iran), was a renowned poet, mathematician, and astronomer. He is best known for his Rubaiyat (quatrains) and his contributions to algebra and geometry. He also made astronomical

¹ Michot, Y. L. (2006). *Al-Farabi, Founder of Islamic Neoplatonism: His Life, Works, and Influence*. Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization



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observations and proposed calendar reforms. Khayyam's contributions to both literature and science have made him an enduring figure in Persian culture.

5. Al-Khwarizmi (780-850): Al-Khwarizmi, originally from Khurasan, was a mathematician, astronomer, and geographer. His work on algebra, exemplified in his book "Kitab al-Jabr wa al-Muqabala," laid the foundation for modern algebraic concepts. (The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing) laid the foundation for modern algebraic thought. Al-Khwarizmi's contributions greatly influenced mathematics and had a lasting impact on scientific and intellectual developments

Movarounnahr and Khurasan witnessed the emergence of numerous great scholars during the 9th to 12th centuries, whose contributions in philosophy, science, literature, and Islamic scholarship left a lasting impact. Scholars like Al-Biruni, Ibn Sina, Al-Farabi, Omar Khayyam, and Al-Khwarizmi advanced knowledge in their respective fields, enriching the intellectual heritage of these regions. Their works continue to be studied and revered, highlighting the importance of Movarounnahr and Khurasan as centers of intellectual excellence during the medieval period.

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