

ALFARABI AND THE FOUNDATION OF
ISLAMIC POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY



Alfarabi
and the Foundation of
Islamic Political Philosophy



MUHSIN S. MAHDI

With a Foreword by
Charles E. Butterworth



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
Chicago & London

The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 60637
The University of Chicago Press, Ltd., London
© 2001 by The University of Chicago
All rights reserved. Published 2001
Paperback edition 2010
Printed in the United States of America

19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 2 3 4 5 6

ISBN-13: 978-0-226-50186-4 (cloth)
ISBN-13: 978-0-226-50187-1 (paper)
ISBN-10: 0-226-50186-8 (cloth)
ISBN-10: 0-226-50187-6 (paper)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Mahdi, Muhsin.

Alfarabi and the foundation of Islamic political philosophy / Muhsin S. Mahdi.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographic references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-226-50186-4 (cloth : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-226-50186-8 (cloth : alk. paper)

1. Fārābī. 2. Philosophy, Islamic. 3. Political science—Philosophy. I. Title.

B753.F34 M33 2001

181:6—dc21

00-012720

⊗ The paper used in this
publication meets the minimum
requirements of the American National
Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence
of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

For L. S.

If we had to repay the debt of gratitude
incurred by his kindness to us,
not even the whole of time
would suffice.



