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Born in New Jersey in 1941, Bruce Lawrence earned his undergraduate degree at Princeton University, his master's degree at Episcopal Theological School, and his doctorate at Yale University in History of Religions. Beginning to learn Arabic from age 17, Lawrence has been conducting research on Islamic history from that day to the present and has written numerous works. In 2012, he was awarded the "Service Award for DOST Islam" with his work entitled "Qur'an-ı Kerîm: A Biography". He speaks Arabic, Urdu, Persian and French. Dr. Bruce Lawrence taught Islamic history at Duke University for 40 years till his retirement in 2011.