

## C.V. HICHEM DJAIT

- **Early years and education :**

Born on December 6, 1935 in Tunis, he is a historian, an islamologist and Tunisian thinker.

He was brought up in an upper middle class family in Tunis. After finishing secondary school at the Collège Sadiki in Tunis, he succeeds on the high-level competitive examination for teachers in history from the ENS, Sorbonne in 1962, and obtains a PhD in Islamic medieval history in 1982. Being a specialist in Islamic history during the middle ages, he has written several books which were published in Tunisia and France.

Being member of several international committees, he gives original thoughts to the immersion of the arab islamic world into modernity.

Having obtained his PhD in letters and humanities in Paris in 1962, he is emeritus professor at the university of Tunis and visiting professor at McGill university in Montreal, at Berkley in California and at the Collège de France.

And in 2012, he is designated as President of the Tunisian academy of sciences, letters and arts *Beit al-Hikma*.

- **Professional carrer :**

- 1962-1969 : Teacher of history at the faculty of theology in Tunis.
- 1969-1976 : Researcher at the CNRS (the National Center for Scientific Research in Paris).
- 1976-1981 : Assistant Professor in Islamic medieval history at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Tunis.
- 1982-1986 : Associate Professor at the faculty of arts and humanities in Tunis, and visiting professor at the Collège de France in 1988.

- 1986-1996 : Professor of medieval history at the university of Tunis.
- 1996-2006 : Emeritus professor of history at the university of Tunis.
- 2012-2015 : President of the Tunisian Academy of sciences, letters and arts *Beit al-Hikma*.
- **Development of his thought processes and scientific research works and publications :**
  - 1/ 1964-1969 : The ideas of a young Tunisian Moslem thinker :
    - First articles on : The issue of the original Islamic society (al-Fikr magazine).
    - Ideas on Contemporary Islam.
    - Reports (published in les Cahier de Tunis).
  - 2/ 1969-1976 : Hichem Djaït and the arab-islamic intellectual crisis :
    - The arab personality and the future of the arab-islamic world (Collection Esprit), Paris, Seuil 1974.
    - Europe and Islam, (Collection Esprit) Paris, Seuil 1978.
    - Miscellaneous items on the islamic west during the Omeida era (The foundation of th islamic Maghreb), Sfax, Amal editions, 2004.
    - “Al-Kufa” vol.5 pp346-352.
    - A critical approach the issue of orientalism.
    - “Al-Kufa : The birth of the islamic city, Paris G.P., Maison neuve and larose, 1986.
    - The Great Discord : religion and politics in the early days of islam, Paris, Gallimard, 1989.
    - 1991-2014 : The historian dealing with the biography of the Prophet.
      - The life of Muhammad (1) - Revelation and Prophecy, Fayard, Paris 2006.

- The life of Muhammad (2) - The prophetic predictions in Mecca, Fayard, 2008.
- The life of Muhammad (3) - The Journey of the Prophet to the Medina and the triumph of Islam, CERES, Tunis, 2012.