

ISLAM IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

ISLAMIC THOUGHT - MT 2007,

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- I. Our aim is to explore the intellectual dimension of Islam in the Arabic Middle East in the 20th century. We shall focus on selected subjects - thinkers and intellectual trends - which typify aspects of the larger picture. Modern thought will be treated in its various contexts and against the background of pre-modern history and thought.

We hope to gain detail and depth through case studies, as well as achieving some understanding of the general situation.

II. The Timetable

Week

1. A General Introduction. Historical Background. Intellectual Overview. A Typology of Thought and the Place of Traditionalism. The importance of Egypt in the Inter-War Period.
2. Foundations of Modern Islamic Thought in the Arab World: The Ideas of Jalal al-Din al-Afghani and Muhammad 'Abduh:
3. Islam, Politics and Traditional Sources: Muhammad Rashid Rida.
4. Ijtihad and Taqlid: An Egyptian Discussion.
5. Hasan al-Banna and the Muslim Brothers, The Early Thought.
6. The Thought of Sayyid Qutb, A "Classical" Political "Islamist" Outlook.
7. A "Modernist" View: Mohamed Talbi on Pluralism, Politics and Islam in the Modern World.
8. Talbi (con't) on Understanding the Qur'an.

Suggested Readings

C.C. Adams, *Islam and Modernism in Egypt*

W.C. Smith, *Islam in Modern History*

W. Watt, *Islamic Fundamentalism and Modernity*

Yvonne Haddad, *Contemporary Islam and the Challenge of History*

J. Esposito, ed. *Voices of Resurgent Islam*

J. Donahue and J. Esposito, eds., *Islam in Transition*

Gilles Keppel, *The Prophet and the Pharaoh*

J. Jansen, *Modern Egyptian Koran Interpretation*

K. Cragg, *Counsels in Contemporary Islam*

F. Rahman, *Islam*

A. Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*

N. Keddie, *Sayyid Jamal al-din al-Afghani: A Political Biography*

J. Cooper, M. Mahmoud, R. Nettler, eds., *Islam and Modernity: Muslim Intellectuals Respond*

M. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam, Vol. 3*

R.C. Martin, M.R. Woodward, D.S. Atmaja, *Defenders of Reason in Islam: Mu'tazilism from Medieval School to Modern Symbol*

D. Eickelman, J. Piscatori, *Muslim Politics*

ESSAYS

Week

1. Discussion of Islam, Pre-Modern and Modern. D. Waines, ***Introduction to Islam***.
2. What is W.C. Smith's general conception of 'Islam in Modern History' and how does Muhammad Abduh, in C.C. Adams's presentation, fit into this? Be critical and give examples to support your arguments.

Readings: C.C. Adams, ***Islam and Modernism in Egypt***; W.C. Smith, ***Islam in Modern History***.

Readings: Hamid Enayat, **Modern Islamic Political Thought**; Malcolm Kerr, **Islamic Reform: The Political and Legal Theories of Muhammad Abduh and Rashid Rida**; Albert Hourani, **Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age**.

4. Ali Abd al-Raziq provided a counter-trend to Rida's politicisation. Discuss Raziq's main thesis giving examples of his ideas and arguments.

Readings: Jacques Berque, Egypt: **Imperialism and Revolution**; Leonard Binder, **Islamic Liberalism: A Critique of Development Ideologies**, chapter 4; A. Hourani, **Arab Thought**, pp. 183-192.

5. Describe analytically the thought of Hasan al-Banna and the early Muslim Brothers. Emphasise basic ideas and intellectual methods in historical and political context.

Readings: R.P. Mitchell, **The Society of the Muslim Brothers**; Christina Harris, **Nationalism and Revolution in Egypt: The Role of the Muslim Brotherhood**; article, "al-Ikhwan al-Muslimun", *E.I.* new ed., vol. 3, pp. 1068-1071.

6. Write a critical review of Fazlur Rahman's book, **Islam and Modernity: Transformation of an Intellectual Tradition**. Put your review in the context of the previous essays.
7. Write a critical review of the book, **Islam and Modernity: Muslim Intellectuals Respond**, in which you discuss the ideas of any four of the thinkers represented there. Compare and contrast their ideas in the context of all of the above. Is there any common ground between the "political Islamists" and the "modernists"?
8. Summing up.

NB. Please consult *E.I.* II and *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World* for articles useful in preparing the essays.