

History 124
Spring 2005
T/TH 2-3:20pm
WLH 2111

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Islam in Africa

The religion of Islam has occupied a prominent place in many African countries for centuries, and Muslims continue to make a significant impact on the social, economic and political landscapes of the societies in which they live. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw the rise of Islamic orthodoxy in the sub-region of West Africa, resulting in the founding of Islamic theocracies in several places. Furthermore, the post-Independence period has been marked by a movement away from secularism to a struggle for the creation of an Islamic state in several countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia.

To what extent were these social movements engendered by purely religious factors? Were these movements essentially motivated by the crises in the political economies and the resultant general deterioration in the living standards of the people? Why did these theocratic forces emerge in societies where there have been considerable investments by western political economies? Were these movements connected to the history of Islamic militancy or jihads in certain countries? What role, if any, did extra-African Islamic forces play in these movements? These and other relevant questions will be examined and fully deliberated during the course of the semester in order to ferret out possible causal factors and their wider implications. We will also examine the impact of these movements on the question of gender equality. In addition, the overall impact of Islam on pre-Islamic traditional practices (and vice versa), and the role and place of the mosque in the mobilization of the masses during the struggle for political independence will be looked at as well.

Texts:

Nehemia Levtzion & Randall L. Pouwells, eds., *The History of Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press), 2000

The following books are on reserve at the Geisel library:

Pat Williams and Toyin Falola, (eds.), *Religious Impact on the nation-state: the Nigerian predicament*

Toyin Falola, *Violence in Nigeria: the Crisis of Religious Politics and Secular Ideologies*

John Entelis, *Islam, Democracy and the State in North Africa*

John P. Entelis and Philip C. Naylor (eds.), *State and society in Algeria*

John P. Entelis, *Comparative Politics of North Africa: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia*

John P. Entelis, (ed.), *Islam, democracy and the state in North Africa*

John L. Esposito, *Political Islam: revolution, radicalism or reform?*

John L. Esposito, *Islam and civil society*

John L. Esposito, Islam and politics
 John I. Esposito, The Islamic threat: Myth or Reality?
 Shireen T. Hunter, (ed.), The Politics of Islamic Revivalism: Diversity and Unity
 John O. Hunwick, (ed.), Religion and National Integration in Africa
 Ricardo R. Laremont, Islam and the Politics of Resistance in Algeria 1783-1992
 Arye Oded, Islam and Politics in Kenya
 T. Abdou M. Simone, In Whose image? Political Islam and Urban politics in Sudan
 John Ruedy, Islamisation and Secularism in North Africa
 Dennis Sullivan and S. Abed-Kotob, Islam in Contemporary Egypt
 Ghada H. Talhami, The Mobilization of Muslim Women in Egypt

Requirements

Final Grades will reflect the following:

Attendance and participation	5%
Mid-term Examination	30%
Research Paper	30%
Final Examination	35%

Each student will write a paper based on original research on a chosen topic that is of direct pertinence to this course. You are advised to make use of primary as well as secondary sources, and the topic should discuss a variety of themes such as gender, race, slavery, economics, youth movements, urban proletariat, Shari'a (Islamic law), traditional culture vs. Islamic culture, etc, though not necessarily all of them.

Course Outline/Reading Schedule

Mar. 29 – Introduction

Mar. 31- Readings: TBA

The Commercial Revolution and the rise of “World” Religions

Apr. 5 – Readings:

F.E Peters, Muhammad and the Origins of Islam, chapters 3, 4 & 5

Arab Bedouin society and polytheism

Mohammad: The man and the Prophet

Apr. 7 – Readings:

F.E Peters, Muhammad and the Origins of Islam, chapter 6

Mohammad and the challenge to Bedouin oligarchy

Bilal and Aksum/The Hijra

Apr. 12– Readings:

F.E. Peters, Muhammad and the Origins of Islam, chapters 8 & 9

Founding of Muslim state and political expansionism

Apr. 14 –Readings:

N. Levtzion and R.L. Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, chapters 1 & 2

Introduction of Islam in Africa

Apr.19– Readings: TBA

Arab migrations to North Africa

Impact of Arabization process

Apr. 21 – Readings: TBA

Formation and growth of Islamic orthodoxy

Apr. 26/28 –Readings:

John Ruedy, ed., Islamisation and Secularism in North Africa;

Dennis Sullivan and S. Abed-Kotob, Islam in Contemporary Egypt;

Ghada H. Talhami, The Mobilization of Muslim Women in Egypt;

Raymond W. Baker, “Invidious Comparisons: Realism, Postmodern

Globalism and Centrist Islamic Movements in Egypt”, in Political Islam,

Revolution and Radicalism or Reform?, edited by John L. Esposito

Growth of Islamic orthodoxy in Egypt

May 3 & 5– Readings: (on reserve)

Ricardo R. Laremont, Islam and the politics of Resistance in Algeria

1783-1992 (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2000)

Dirk Vandewalle, “Islam in Algeria: Religion, Culture and Opposition in a Rentier State” in Political Islam, Revolution, Radicalism or Reform?, edited by John L. Esposito

Mohammad Arkoun, Algeria, in The Politics of Islamic Revivalism, edited by Shireen T. Hunter

Growth of Islamic orthodoxy in Algeria

May 10 – Mid-Term Examination

May 12 & 17 – Readings: (on reserve)

John Entelis, Islam, democracy and the State in North Africa;
John Ruedy, Islamisation and Secularism in North Africa;
Mohamed Elhachim Hamdi, The Politicisation of Islam A Case Study of Tunisia;
Norma Salem, Tunisia, in Shireen T. Hunter, ed., The Politics of Islamic Revivalism;
Henry Munson, Morocco, in Shireen T. Hunter, ed;

Growth of Islamic orthodoxy in Morocco/Tunisia

May 19 & 24 – Readings:

P.B. Clark, West Africa and Islam, (London: Edward Arnold Publishers, 1982)
Nehemia Levtzion, “Islam in the Bilad al-Sudan to 1800”
Ivor Wilks, “The Juula and the expansion of Islam into the Forest”; David Robinson, “Revolutions in the Western Sudan”; Lansine Kaba, “Islam in West Africa: Radicalism and the New Ethic of Disagreement, 1960-1990”; William F.S. Miles, “Religious Pluralisms in Northern Nigeria”; Toyin Falola, Violence in Nigeria: The Crisis of Religious Politics and Secular Ideologies (on reserve); Also, read section on Nigeria in Religion and National Integration in Africa, edited by John O. Hunwick

Trade and Islam
Medieval Sudanic states and Islam
Islamic Jihads/Millennarian movements
Quest for theocratic state in contemporary society

May 26 & 31 - Readings:

Lidwien Kapteijns, “Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa”;
Randall L. Pouwels, “The East African Coast, c. 780-1900 CE”;
Donald C. Sperling, “The Coastal Hinterland and Interior of East Africa”;
Edward A. Alpers, “East Central Africa”;

Abdin Chande, Islam, Ulamaa And Community Development in Tanzania: A Case Study of Religious Currents in East Africa (San Francisco and London: Austin and Winfield Publishers) 1998;
Arye Oded, Islam and Politics in Kenya (Boulder: Lynne Reiner Publishers, Inc.) 2000;
Abdin Chande, Radicalism and Reform in East Africa”

Swahili coastal societies
Indian Ocean and Red Sea trade
Islam and politics
Movement for theocracy

June 2 – Readings:

T. Abdou M. Simone, In Whose Image?: Political Islam and Urban Practices in Sudan (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) 1994; Abdel Waheb El-Effendi, Turabi’s revolution: Islam and Power in Sudan (London: Grey Seal Books) 1991; Peter Woodward, “Sudan: Islamic Radicals in Power” in Political Islam, Revolution, Radicalism or Reform?, edited by John L. Esposito, (Boulder: Lynne Reiner Publishers) 1997; Shireen T. Hunter, ed., The Politics of Islamic Revivalism: Diversity and Unity (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press), 1988 (see article by John L. Esposito on Sudan); also, see section on Sudan in John O. Hunwick, ed., Religion and National Integration in Africa (on reserve);
Jay Spaulding, “Precolonial Islam in the Eastern Sudan”; John O. Voll, “The Eastern Sudan, 1822 to the Present”

The Sudan
The quest for Shari’a law and Islamic theocracy
Conclusion