

SABRIES OF TWO EASTS

An Untold History of
MUSLIMS IN EASTERN EUROPE
Their Friends and Foes

ATAULLAH BOGDAN KOPANSKI

INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES

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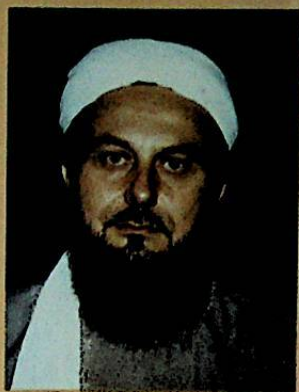
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Most of treatments about Muslims in Europe trace Muslim presence to post-World War II situations in which migration from one continent to the other became more visible and frequent. However, Muslims – even when lived for over five centuries, as in Poland, Lithuania, Bosnia, Croatia, Albania and other European countries – have been somehow treated like aliens and even called ‘Turks’ or ‘Arabs.’ Such inhibitions hinder proper understanding and acceptance of people who may have different culture, religion, or language.

To some, it may sound ridiculous to call a people who have lived for over five centuries aliens. But it becomes more serious when Islam and Bosnians are used interchangeably as if Islam is an ethnic religion (like the Jewish claim). These misconceptions about Islam and the Muslims, including the myth that Islam was spread with the force of sword, need to be corrected as early as possible.

Dr Ataullah-Bogdan Kopanski, as an outstanding historian has taken up the challenge to go to original sources not only in written records, documents, chronicles but also to oral history and search for the roots of the Muslims in Poland and Lithuania. This is an original and pioneering research in this area. It will help in putting the issue of Muslim presence in Europe in proper perspective and dispel many misgivings about Islam and the Muslims. The book provides a serious reading and covers a history of over five centuries in a precise manner.

ATAULLAH-BOGDAN KOPANSKI WAS BORN IN KATOWICE (KATTOWITZ), UPPER SILESIA, IN 1948, TO CHRISTIAN PARENTS. HE EMBRACED ISLAM IN 1974, IN ISTANBUL AND HAS BEEN A PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE IN POLAND. THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF WARSAW IMPRISONED HIM FIRST IN 1968 AND THEN IN 1981. A GRADUATE OF SILESIA UNIVERSITY (MA IN HISTORY, 1975), HE EARNED HIS PHD IN HUMANITIES IN 1980. KOPANSKI EMIGRATED TO THE USA IN 1983. HE HAS WRITTEN MANY ARTICLES AND FOUR BOOKS, INCLUDING *The Broken Crescent: The Rise and Fall of Muslim Crimea*. HE HAS LECTURED AT SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES AND ISLAMIC INSTITUTES OF THE USA, SYRIA, INDIA, POLAND, PAKISTAN, BOSNIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE WAS ADJUNCT OF PHILOSOPHY, SILESIA UNIVERSITY, AND AN EXPERT IN CHARGE OF EURASIAN STUDIES AT DA'WAH ACADMEY, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN. CURRENTLY, HE IS A PROFESSOR OF ISLAMIC HISTORY, INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, KUALA LAMPUR, MALAYSIA.

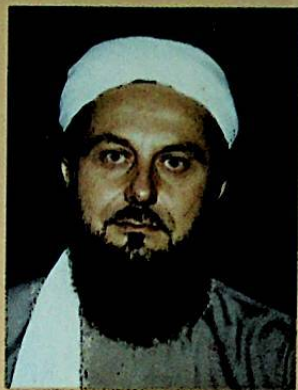


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