History of Islam in German Thought

From Leibniz to Nietzsche

Ian Almond



Contents

Ac	knowledgments	vii	
Int	Introduction		
	The Historical Context: Europe and the Ottoman Empire, 1683–1856	3	
1	Leibniz, Historicism and the Plague of Islam	6	
	Leibniz the Political Thinker: Exulta, Germania! Leibniz the Christian Thinker: Islam as Natural Theology Leibniz the Seeker of Causes: The Enemy Becomes the Origin	11 18 23	
2	Kant, Islam and the Preservation of Boundaries	29	
	Islam as Sublime Threat Kant, Anthropology and the Muslim World: Physical Geography as a Mere Appendix	38 44	
3	Herder's Arab Fantasies	53	
	Herder the Pastor and the Enemies of Religion Herder the Anti-Papist Herder the Poet: Fantasist, Idealist and Seeker of Renewal Herder the Nationalist: Exemplum-Hunter and Turcophobe	56 59 62 65	
4	Keeping the Turks Out of Islam: Goethe's Ottoman Plan	71	
	The Un-Christian Captives of the Italienische Reise: Goethe's Turkish Encounter Goethe's Turks and the Denial of Depth: Three Texts	76 79	
5	Friedrich Schlegel and the Emptying of Islam	89	
	Schlegel the Romantic: Mohammed as World-Fashioner Schlegel the Thinker of Volk and Sprache: Islam as Volkswanderung Schlegel the Historian: Islam as Significant Variable	91 94 98	

	·
V1	Contents

6	Hegel and the Disappearance of Islam	108
	Hegel and the Non-European: Some Critical Frameworks Hegel's Sources on the Muslim World: From School Speech	108
	to Local Newspaper	111
	Hegel the Enlightenment Thinker: Islam as Incomplete and	
	Abstract Aufklärung	117
	Hegel the Bourgeois Townsman: Islam as Social Vacuum	120
	Hegel the "Last Christian Philosopher": Islam as Competitor	
	and Jewish Variant	123
	Hegel the Romantic: Islam's Shift from Monstrous Conquest	
	to Blossoming Culture	126
	Hegel and Race: Islam as Caucasian Religion, Muslims as	
	West Asians	130
7	Marx the Moor	135
	Marx the Anti-Imperialist: The Noble Sons of Mohammed	137
	Marx the Teleologist: The Turks Must Be Got Rid Of	139
	Marx the Researcher: Islam as Foil, Clue and Catalyst	143
	The Literary Marx: Dealing in Images	147
8	Nietzsche's Peace with Islam	151
	Islam as Just Another Religion	158
Conclusion		163
Notes		167
Bibliography		191
About the Author		201
Index		203