

# **Muslim Communities Reemerge**

**Historical Perspectives on Nationality,**

**Politics, and Opposition in the Former**

**Soviet Union and Yugoslavia**

Andreas Kappeler, Gerhard Simon, Georg Brunner,

*Editors of the German edition*

Edward Allworth, *Editor of the English edition*

*Translations from the German & French by Caroline Sawyer*



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The terrible events afflicting Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Tajikistan fill the news, commanding the world's attention. This timely volume offers rare insight into the background of these catastrophic conflicts. *Muslim Communities Reemerge* is one of the few books in any language to analyze, in detail and in depth, the historical and contemporary situation of Muslims in former communist states, thus clarifying the sources, development, and implications of the events that dominate today's foreign news.

In fourteen chapters and an updated introduction, European and North American specialists examine the recent evolution of Islamic expression and practice in these former Communist regions, as well as its political significance within officially atheistic regimes. Representing a wide range of disciplines and perspectives, the authors detail how the modern ethno-religious situation developed and matured in hostile circumstances, the degree of latitude local Muslims achieved in religious expression, and what prospect the future seemed to offer just before the breakup of the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"*Muslim Communities Reemerge* provides a remarkably balanced, comprehensive, and up-to-date introduction to the intricacies and multi-layered relationship of the ex-Soviet Islamic peoples to their own history, religion, and culture as well as to their non-Muslim neighbors and fellow citizens. It forces us to rethink our own definition and understanding of contemporary nationalism and federalism, particularly as related to religion, customs, or traditional and modern values."—Marc Raeff, Bakhmeteff Professor Emeritus of Russian Studies, Columbia University

"*Muslim Communities Reemerge* is particularly timely in light of current speculation that Bosnian style civil war could destroy the stability of the newly independent Central Asian republics. The editors have performed a valuable service by juxtaposing ex-Soviet and ex-Yugoslav Muslims in a comparative context."—James Critchlow, Fellow at the Russian Research Center, Harvard University

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*Central Asia Book Series* Edward Allworth, General Editor

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