

"A ground-breaking historical account of Islam in Cleveland. I find it not only informative, but also scintillating."

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Hafiz Imam at large, and former Director,
Cleveland Community Islamic School

"I know of no other work that deals with the Islamic community in Cleveland with the depth and thoroughness of Mr. Lo's study. It fills a gap in the historical literature on Cleveland."

– Tom Hartshorne Ph.D.,
Professor of History,
Cleveland State University

"A long overdue document on the rich heritage of Islam in Cleveland. Mbaye did an excellent job in presenting history through an unbiased approach."

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President of Uqba Mosque Foundation, Cleveland

"Very informative research, accurate, and to the point. Anyone who read this work would certainly enjoy its content."

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President of Cleveland Council of Imams

"Eight years ago, I wrote a forward to Mbaye's Arabic book Language and Religious Themes in the African Literature in which he introduced readers of the Arab world to the cultural wealth of the African continent. Here is Mbaye again introducing readers everywhere to the history of Islam in America. This is a dynamic research and well grounded in the literature; it is a timely response to the academic community's dire need for such a multi disciplinary scholarship."

– Abdurahman A. Ousman, Ph.D.,
Chair, and Professor of Afro-Arab Studies,
Center of Research and African Studies,
International University of Africa, Khartoum, Sudan

First Edition
(1425AH/2004AC)

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amana publications
10710 Tucker Street
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2223 USA
Tel: (301) 595-5777 / Fax: (301) 595-5888
E-mail: amana@igprinting.com
Website: www.amana-publications.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publications Data

Lo, Mbaye.

Muslims in America : race, politics, and community building / Mbaye Lo.--
1st ed.

p. cm. -- (Amana Islam in America ; 1)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 1-59008-023-8

1. Muslims--United States. 2. Muslims--Ohio--Cleveland--History--20th
century. 3. Islam--Ohio--Cleveland--History--20th century. 4. Cleveland
(Ohio)--Ethnic relations--History--20th century. I. Title. II. Series.

E184.M88L6 2004
305.6'97'0973--dc22

2004001478

Printed in the United States of America by International Graphics
10710 Tucker Street Beltsville, MD 20705-2223
Tel: (301) 595-5999 Fax: (301) 595-5888
Website: igprinting.com
E-mail: ig@igprinting.com

Amana ISLAM IN AMERICA series

Muslims in America

Race, Politics and Community Building

MBAYE LO

amana publications

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In an engaging style, Mbaye Lo provides us with a fascinating historical account of the growth of Islam in America. He reveals the different factors and figures that interacted to shape the evolution and growth of the American Muslim communities in the wider contexts of race, identity and politics. Mbaye takes the mosque as his paradigm to analyze and synthesize the growth of Muslim communities in Cleveland: how their mosques developed over time, the challenges they faced, in moving to mainstream Islam and developing a multi-ethnic community. An added feature of the book is a survey to answer questions about what motivated converts to Islam, who introduced them to Islam and how Muslims are distributed across different ethnic groups and mosques.

I know of no other work that deals with the Islamic community in Cleveland with the depth and thoroughness of Mr. Lo's study. It fills a gap in the historical literature on Cleveland.

Tom Hartshorne
Professor of History
Cleveland State University

Mbaye Lo's book is fascinating and valuable. It examines relationship between America and Africa through the adoption of the Islamic faith by Americans of African origin—recently or long ago—displaying broad knowledge of Islam and examining diverse source materials. The study's unique aspect is on Islam in Cleveland, Ohio, and is the first study of Islam in that city, with detailed information, both from local documentary material, and much from personal observations. An attractive study for those who work on Islam or on American society.

Professor John Hunwick
Director-General
Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa
Northwestern University

Mbaye Lo has provided us with not only a welcomed addition to a building field but a truly insightful work on the Muslim communities in Cleveland. This work is definitely a template for future local studies that will enlighten all who want to know about American religions and the Muslims in America. His style is engaging and the research captivating. This is a must read.

Aminah McCloud
Professor of Islamic Studies
DePaul University



Mbaye Lo, a native of Senegal, is a lecturer in Arabic Studies at Kent State University, and a Ph.D. candidate at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University where he earned his M.A. in American History. He holds B.A./M.A. in Arabic Language and African Studies from the Khartoum International Institute of Arabic Language and International University of Africa in Khartoum, Sudan.

Mbaye Lo has published in English and Arabic in national and international journals on issues related to culture, politics and history. His first Arabic book

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ISBN 1-59008-023-8

1 59008 023 8

5 14 95

Muslims in America : Race,

B8093

INSI

\$14.95

