

# The Muslims of America

*Edited by*

**YVONNE YAZBECK HADDAD**

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS**  
New York Oxford

Oxford University Press

Oxford New York Toronto  
Delhi Bombay Calcutta Madras Karachi  
Kuala Lumpur Singapore Hong Kong Tokyo  
Nairobi Dar es Salaam Cape Town  
Melbourne Auckland Madrid

and associated companies in  
Berlin Ibadan

Copyright © 1991 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

First published in 1991 by Oxford University Press, Inc.  
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016-4314

First issued as an Oxford University Press paperback, 1993.

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,  
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,  
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise,  
without the prior permission of Oxford University Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
The Muslims of America / edited by Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad.  
p. cm. — (Religion in America series)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-19-506728-2

ISBN 0-19-508559-0 (pbk.)

1. Islam—United States. 2. Muslims—United States.

I. Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck, 1935-

II. Series: Religion in America series

(Oxford University Press)

BP67.U6M87 1991 297.0973—dc20 90-44510

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book brings together studies on the religion of Islam as it is experienced in a variety of contexts in North America, in recognition of its expanding minority status in the United States and Canada. The papers collected in this volume were first presented at a conference devoted to the "Muslims of America," held in April 1989 on the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts, which was jointly sponsored by the Department of History, the Near East Area Studies Program, and the Arabic Club of the university. The project was supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Department of Education, the Arabian American Oil Company, Five College Incorporated, and Mobiloil Corporation. Resources at the University of Massachusetts were also provided by the Arabic Club, the Office of the Chancellor, the Department of History, the Faculty of Humanities and Fine Arts, the International Programs Office, the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Near East Area Studies Program. The viewpoints and beliefs expressed in these papers are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the sponsoring organizations.

The organizing committee of the conference wishes to express particular thanks to the following individuals: Joseph Duffey, chancellor of the University of Massachusetts; Murray Schwartz, dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Fine Arts; Glenn Gordon, dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Barbara Burn, director of the International Programs Office. Special acknowledgment is made of the contributions of Elizabeth Brewer, assistant dean for Area Studies and codirector of the conference, who was involved in all aspects of the undertaking since its inception. Robert Engle, conference coordinator, and Alice Izer and Kathleen Moore oversaw all local arrangements in connection with the conference.

Gratitude is expressed to the chairs and respondents of the many panels conducted in the course of the conference. The chairs and respondents from the University of Massachusetts include Roland Sarti, chair of the Department of History; Elizabeth Brewer, assistant dean for Area Studies; Anna Tsing, professor of anthropology; Walter Denny, chair of the department of art history; W. Barnett Pearce, professor of communication; Adnan Haydar, director of the Near East Area Studies Program; Anwar Syed, professor of political science; Robert Griffith, professor of history. Other chairs and respondents include John A. Petropulos, Amherst College; Jonathan Lippman, Mount Holyoke College; Willem Bijlefeld and David Kerr, Hartford Seminary; Robert Haddad, Smith College; Allan D. Austin, Springfield College; and Barbara Aswad, Wayne State University.

The final form of the present text is the result of the efforts of many people. Jane I. Smith and Elizabeth d'Amico provided editorial assistance for all of the papers. Alice Izer typed several versions of a number of manuscripts, and Kathleen Moore maintained general organizational oversight of the collection as a whole. Gratitude and thanks are extended for all of these contributions, without which neither the project nor this volume would have been possible.

# CONTENTS

*Contributors* ix

Introduction: The Muslims of America 3  
*Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad*

## I. The Muslims of the United States

- 1 Muslim Organizations in the United States 11  
*Gutbi Mahdi Ahmed*
- 2 Estimate of Muslims Living in America 25  
*Carol L. Stone*

## II. Perceptions of Muslims in the United States

- 3 Perspectives of the American Churches on Islam and the Muslim Community in North America 39  
*Byron L. Haines*
- 4 The Muslim as the "Other": Representation and Self-Image of the Muslims in America 53  
*Abubaker Al-Shingiety*

## III. Islamic Thought in the United States

- 5 Ismail R. Al-Faruqi: Muslim Scholar-Activist 65  
*John L. Esposito*
- 6 Seyyed Hossein Nasr: Defender of the Sacred and Islamic Traditionalism 80  
*Jane I. Smith*
- 7 The Legacy of Fazlur Rahman 96  
*Frederick M. Denny*

## IV. Islamic Activity in the United States

- 8 Political Activity of Muslims in America 111  
*Steve A. Johnson*
- 9 Da'wa in the West 125  
*Larry A. Poston*

- 10 Muslims in Prison: Claims to Constitutional Protection of Religious Liberty 136  
*Kathleen Moore*
- 11 Islamic Education in the United States and Canada: Conception and Practice of the Islamic Belief System 157  
*Nimat Hafez Barazangi*
- V. Muslim Women in Intercultural Perspective
- 12 African-American Muslim Women 177  
*Beverly Thomas McCloud*
- 13 Two-Way Acculturation: Muslim Women in America Between Individual Choice (Liminality) and Community Affiliation (Communitas) 188  
*Marcia K. Hermansen*
- VI. American Muslims and the Question of Identity
- 14 Islamic Issues for Muslims in the United States 205  
*John O. Voll*
- 15 American Foreign Policy in the Middle East and Its Impact on the Identity of Arab Muslims in the United States 217  
*Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad*
- 16 Convergence and Divergence in an Emergent Community: A Study of Challenges Facing U.S. Muslims 236  
*Sulayman S. Nyang*

"A highly stimulating work of scholarship...should be read by Muslims and Christians."

*The Message International*

"The intrinsic value of the chapters and their noteworthy bibliographies make this an essential acquisition for anyone interested in American Muslims."

*Interpretation*

"Valuable and informative essays....The strength of the collection lies in its interweaving of the concerns and problems of immigrant and African American Muslim communities."

*Choice*

"*The Muslims of America*, covering the history, organizations, religious activism, and intellectual contributions of the fastest growing religious community in the U.S., is already the standard source on North American Islam. Essential reading for scholars of modern Islam and American religions alike, this volume demonstrates that Islam can no longer be overlooked in the North American religious landscape."

Tamara Sonn,  
*St. John Fisher College*

This collection brings together sixteen previously unpublished essays about the history, organization, challenges, responses, outstanding thinkers, and future prospects of the Muslim community in the United States and Canada. Both Muslims and non-Muslims are represented among the contributors, who include such leading Islamic scholars as John Esposito, Frederick Denny, Jane Smith, and John Voll. Focusing on the manner in which American Muslims adapt their institutions as they become increasingly an indigenous part of America, the essays discuss American Muslim self-images, perceptions of Muslims by non-Muslim Americans, leading American Muslim intellectuals, political activity of Muslims in America, Muslims in American prisons, Islamic education, the status of Muslim women in America, and the impact of American foreign policy on Muslims in the United States.

**About the Editor:** Yvonne Yazbeck-Haddad is Professor of Islamic History at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Among her books are *Contemporary Islam and the Challenge of History* (1982) and *Islamic Values in the United States* (Oxford, 1987). She is the past president of the Middle East Studies Association.

Cover design by Betty Palmer

Cover illustration: group photo taken at the 1990 annual meeting of the Muslim Youth of North America in Plainfield, Indiana. Courtesy of the Islamic Society of North America.



ISBN 0-19-508559-0