



Euro-Islam

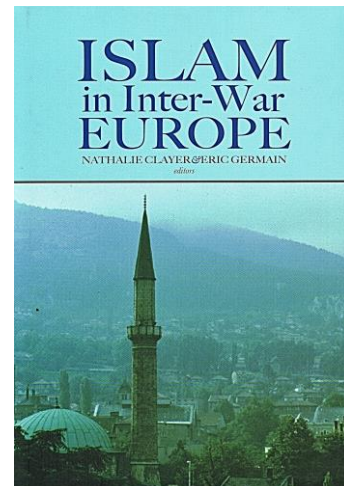
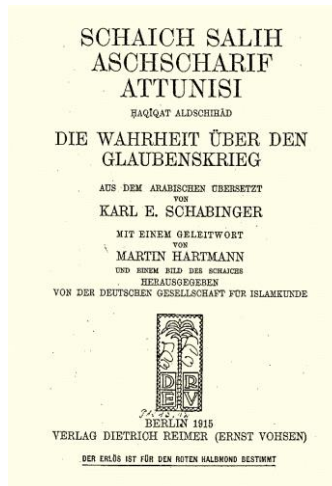
At-Tunisi's Doctrine of an Interfaith Jihad in WWI

A Euro-Islam, a **jihad** “made in Germany,” grew into a new doctrine of an interfaith jihad in World War I, as called for by the Ottoman **Sultan-Caliph**. Following his November 14, 1914 fatwa, he claimed to be the ruler of all Muslims. In Islamist eyes they had to fight now with some infidels against other infidels and their Muslim troops. What made it legal?

Those troops had not only no right to fight back, but they had to turn against the foreign overlords too. Shaikh Salih ash-Sharif at-Tunisi (1869-1920), الشيخ صالح الشرف التونسي, a Tunisian mufti (picture), was a confidant of the Ottoman war minister Enver Pasha. But the shaikh was an activist in Max von Oppenheim's **News** Organization for the East of the **Kaiser's** Foreign Office mobilizing **brotherhoods**. Salih spread this pan-Islamist **jihad** doctrine in his booklet for the German-Austrian Central Powers against the Allies: The British, French and Russians (later also colonials like the Italians and the Spanish in North Africa).



خادم العلم والإنسانية صالح الشرف التونسي



War minister Enver Pasha had asked shaikh Salih to travel to Berlin and popularize jihad among Germans. For this goal shaikh Salih wrote his commentary on jihad. In 1915 the German Society for the Study of Islam edited this Haqiqat al-Jihad, حقيقة الجهاد, or The Truth of Jihad. In Berlin the **Arabist** Martin Hartmann of the Seminar of Oriental Languages wrote a friendly foreword and the dragoman, an official **translator**, Karl E. Schabinger an afterword. Both endorsed this Euro-Islam as a further development of jihad. The partial or coalitional jihad became possible “with allied infidels against certain enemy infidels” as an individual duty for all Muslims, though **also** detrimental to “**infidel**” minorities. A peace between areas of Islam and Europe would be in reach if there was no longer a foreign occupation of Islamic lands. The idea of a **joint** interfaith jihad came up **again** in World War II.

Wolfgang G. Schwanitz

See Wolfgang G. Schwanitz: Euro-Islam by Jihad “Made in Germany.” In: Nathalie Clayer, Eric Germain, eds.: Islam in Inter-War Europe. London: Hurst & Co. 2008, 271-301; and a **new version**.