



Islam im deutschsprachigen Raum

A Fatwa or Religious Ruling

Sheykh ‘Abdalgadir Al-Murabit, the leader of the Muslim community in Weimar, Germany, decreed a *fatwa* (a religious ruling) entitled “Recognizing Goethe as a Muslim.” The fatwa ends with the words:

“In the light of his dazzling confirmation of the prophet, may Allah bless him and give him peace, he should be known among Muslims as

***Muhammad Johann Wolfgang Goethe.*”**

<http://www.enfal.de/gote-fat.htm>

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Muhammad-Goethe

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Islam in Austria

- 1147-1229 Crusades
- Spanish Habsburgs
- Turks at Vienna
- 1683
- 1874 Islam as an official religion
- 1878 – Bosnia (1 Million Muslims)
- 1912 Islamic Law – Recognition
- 1919 (300 Muslims)
- 1970s
- 1979 Islam as a „Körperschaft“



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Islam in Switzerland

- 936 – Sarzanene
- 940 – Abtei von Saint-Maurice im Rhône-Tal geplündert
- Allalinhorn – **Al-’Ain** = Well or fountain
- Dorf Saas Almagell – **Al-Mahall** = der Ort oder Aufenthalt
- Zarazene war ein Volksstamm im Nordwestarabien und Sinai Halbinsel.
- Sarazene wurde einfach die arabischen muslimischen) oder tuerkischen eroberer genannt.
- 18. Jahrhundert – Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, 1809-1816 als Shaykh Ibrahim im Auftrag der Londoner Afrikanischen Gesellschaft Forschungsreisen in Arabien, Syrien und Aegypten betrieb.
- 1940 Tuerkische Elite zum Studium in die Schweiz
- 1970er Gastarbeiter



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Islam in Germany - History

There have been Muslims in Germany for the last 300 years. However, the biggest number of Muslims came to Germany after World War II.

After Christianity, Islam is the second largest and the fastest growing religion in Germany. The number of Muslims of German origin is also fast growing.



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How did Muslims come to Germany?

- 1. Migrant workers** (Gastarbeiter) through recruitment agreements with **Turkey (1961), Morocco (1963), Tunisia (1965)**
- 2. Refugees and asylum seekers** from war zones:
 - former Yugoslavia
 - Lebanon, Palestine and Algeria
 - Iran and Afghanistan
 - Kurds from Turkey and Iraq
- 3. Students**
 - a. College graduates and professionals
 - b. German Muslims (converts or by birth to Muslim and German parents)



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Stages in Muslim migration to Germany

- 1960s:** Gastarbeiter: lone unskilled workers
- 1973:** Anwerbestopp (end of recruitment)
- Nov. 1973:** Family reunifications
- Dec. 1981:** Reduction of age limit for children of immigrants from 18 to 16
- 1983:** Law of return incentives: return aid of DM10,500 and an additional DM1,500 per child, refund of the pension contributions. 250,000 took advantage of this law and returned to their countries of origin.



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Article 16 of the German Basic law (Constitution)

“§ (2) Persons persecuted on political grounds shall enjoy the right of asylum.”



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Migration waves from areas of civil war

Mid 1970s Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, Algeria

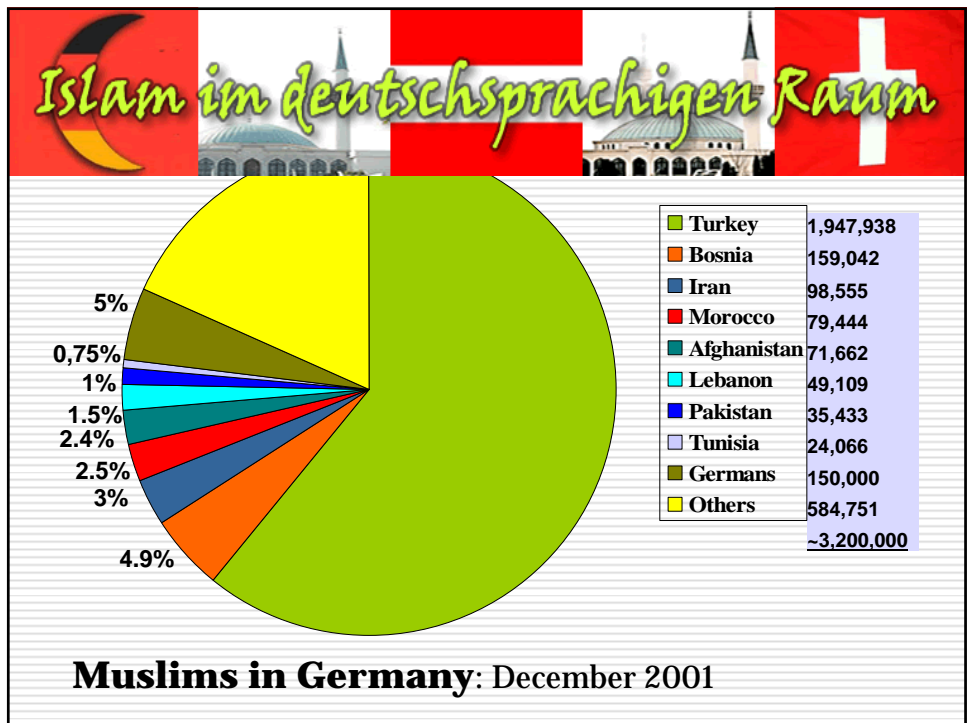
1980s Refugees from:

- * Iran following the Islamic revolution;
- * Kurds from Turkey and Iraq

1990s Former Yugoslavia

1993 Modification of article 16 of the Basic law:
Persons entering Germany from a secure third country are no longer entitled to the right of asylum (all EU countries, Bulgaria, Gambia, Ghana, Poland, Rumania, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Hungary, Turkey)

Population from Islamic Countries					
Country	1989	1995	1997	1999	2001
Afghanistan	22,500	58,500	66,385	71,955	71,662
Albania	~14,000	13,000	11,619	12,107	11,702
Algeria	5,900	17,700	17,499	17,186	17,154
Bosnia	316,000	281,380	167,690	165,000	159,042
Iran	81,300	107,000	111,100	116,446	98,555
Iraq	4,900	16,700	27,200	51,211	53,600
Jordan	10,400	12,200	11,878	11,190	12,500
Lebanon	30,100	54,800	55,904	54,063	49,109
Morocco	61,800	81,900	83,904	81,450	79,444
Pakistan	19,700	36,900	38,527	38,257	35,433
Tunisia	24,300	26,400	25,394	24,260	24,066
Turkey	1,612,600	2,014,300	2,107,426	2,053,564	1,947,938
Germans	?	?	70,000	100,000	150,000
Citizens	?	?	200,000	315,000	400,000
Other C.	60,000	87,000	110,000	118,000	130,000
TOTAL	2,263,500	2,807,780	2,377,426	3,250,529	3,240,205



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Muslim Organizations in Germany

Islamrat für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland (www.islamrat.de)

The Council of Islam, founded in 1986 in Berlin, is a quiet advocate of dialogue.

Islamrat für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Amana Online, (www.amana-online.de)

Amana Online is a project not affiliated with any organization or institution. Its aim is to bridge the gap between Europe and Islam and to initiate a „Dialog der Kulturen“ between Muslims and European Civilization.

Amana Online

Alsakina (www.al-sakina.de/home.html)

Alsakina is a great website by Silvia Horsch-Al Saad, a German Muslim. Many links to various controversial topics: Headscarf debate, Muhammad Cartoons, speech of Pope Benedict XVI , and more.

al-sakina.de

Deutschsprachiger Muslimkreis Berlin e.V. (www.dmk-berlin.de)

This is a German-speaking religious association of Muslims from over 15 countries.

DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER MUSLIMKREIS e.V.
DMK
BERLIN

Deutsch-Türkisches Jugendwerk (www.dtjw.de)

This German-Turkish Youth Organization initiates dialogues among German and Turkish youth in Frankfurt/Main.



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ZMD: Zentralrat der Muslime in Deutschland

The Central Council of Muslims in Germany is the biggest umbrella organization in Germany with 19 member groups and several hundred mosque-communities.

ZMD
Zentralrat
der Muslime
in Deutschland e.V.

President: Dr. Ayyub Axel Köhler, Journalist, German citizen.

1. Vice-President: Maryam Brigitte Weiß , Teacher and Chair of Women representative of ZMD

2. Vice-President: Mahmut Askar, Turkish Citizen, Secretary General of the Union of Turkish-Islamic Cultural Clubs in Europe. (Union der Türkisch-Islamische Kulturvereine in Europa e.V. (ATIB))

islam.DE

Secretary: Aiman Mazyek, Syrian-German, free lance journalist and Media consultant

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Challenges and Problems I

- Unemployment
- Social exclusion
- Discrimination (made scapegoats)
 - Work
 - Schools
 - Education
 - Housing
- Racism (Neo-Nazis and Skinheads)
 - Hate crimes
 - Arson attacks

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Visible large distinct Muslim families



The lone invisible single man



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Challenges and Problems II

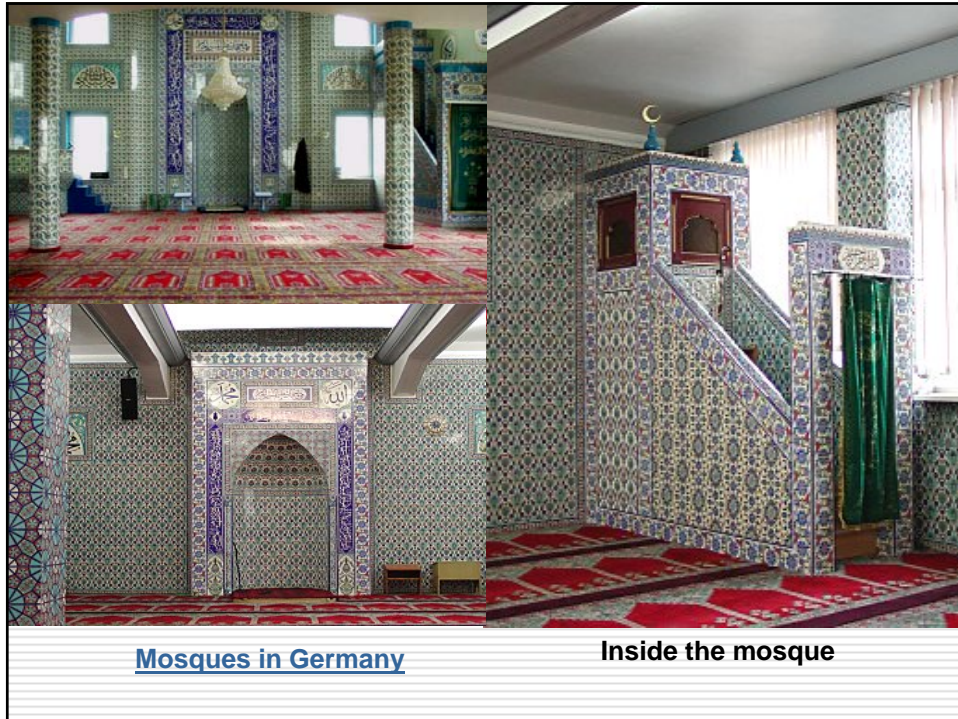
- All Muslims are made to be responsible for the actions of individuals or small groups.
- Many problems are based on prejudice and the lack of knowledge
- Acceptance by the Christian majority
- Isolation and Parallel Society
- Integration, adaptation and assimilation
- Exercising your religious rights without encroachment (the issue of Adhan)
- Notion of "Fiqh al-Mughtarab" = Islamic Law Outside the Muslim World
- Religious Radicalism (some of the 9/11 attackers studied in Europe; Madrid and London Attacks, etc.)

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An apartment building converted into the Merkez Camii Mosque in Hamburg

Images: http://www.bildarchiv-hamburg.de/hamburg/kirchen/moschee_merkez_camii/



Mosques in Germany

Inside the mosque

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Dr. Nadeem Elyas, Former President of Central Council for Muslims in Germany (ZMD)

“We want to keep our identity as Muslims in Germany, as German Muslims. We want to be able to be different, stay in the framework of German society, but keep our religious values and lifestyle.

Society does not have the right to decide for us what parts of Islam are acceptable and what are not. This step has to come from us and we also have to be willing to use the flexibility of Muslim rules and regulations in the future to develop something you can call an **Islam with German character.**”



Nadeem Elyas

Words of Arabic Origin

In his readings the Arab-German poet, Rafik Schami, used to ask the audience a riddle: What is it? If it stands by itself it is meaningless, empty and worth nothing, but when it joins others it grants them mighty and power? Do you know what it is?

It is: **zero**. Zero is nothing, but 1,000 without the three zeros is only one. Another word for zero in English is *cipher*. *Cipher* is an Arabic word: *sifr* that means either *Ziffer* (digit), *Zahl* (number) or *Null* (zero). The word *chiffre* originates also from the word *sifr*.

Do you speak Arabic without realizing it?

"Might I invite you to have something with me in this **café**? Take off your **jacket** and sit down here on this **sofa**, unless you would rather sit on the **divan** with the **crimson mattress**, of course. Would you like a **cup** of **coffee** – with one **sugar** lump or two? Or perhaps a nice cool **carafe** of **lemonade**, or even something **alcoholic**?"

"But of course! Let me buy you lunch! I think **artichokes** would be a lovely starter, don't you? And how about lamb with **rice** and **spinach** to follow? For dessert, what would you say to a piece of **apricot** tart, or an orange **sorbet**? And at the end of the meal we'll have a cup of **mocha**."

Source: <http://www.imarabe.org/ang/perm/mondearabe/theme/docs/4.html>

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Influence of Arabic language and culture in Europe

The influence of the Arabic language and culture on European languages and cultures began with the invasion of Spain in 714. Cordoba was the center of science, culture, literature and art in the Islamic world. Through southern Spain and southern Italy (Sicily) Islamic and Arabic traditions, customs, music, art, philosophy, mathematics, etc. influenced European languages and cultures. Many words that Italian or Spanish adopted from Arabic were adopted by other languages like Portuguese and French. Other European languages like German adopted these words from one of these languages. The influence of the Arabic language on German is therefore an indirect one, but even without knowing this one can tell that the word Algebra, *Tasse*, *Kaffee* or *Risiko* have an Arabic origin.

Here are some examples:

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The following are English words from Arabic

admiral	cane	magazine
adobe	carafe	magnet
alchemy	check	marzipan
alcove	check-mate	mattress
alfalfa	cipher	nadir
algebra	(sifr=zero)	racquet
algorithm	coffee	saffron
alkai	cotton	sash
almanac	crimson	satin
arsenal	damask	sherbet
atlas	elixir	sugar
average	gauze	sumac
azure	gypsum	syrup
baroque	hazard	tambourine
barracks	jar	tariff
caliber	jasamine	traffic
candy	lute	zenith
	macabre	zero

Foods introduced to the West by Arabs and Muslims:

apricots	limes
Artichokes	oranges
asparagus	pomegranates
bananas	quinces
Buckwheat	rice
cherries	spinach
dates	strawberries
eggplants	sugar
figs	
ginger	
grapefruit	
lemons	

German Words of Arabic Origin

Admiral, Algebra, Algorithmus, Artischoke, Aprikose, Aubergine, Marzipan, Kadi, Jacke, Joppe, Koffer, Mütze, Matratze, Gamaschen, Tasse Bohnenkaffee, Kandiszucker, Konditorei, Karaffe, Limonade, massieren, these are of course German words. Did you know that all these words and hundred others came to German from Arabic. Even words that sound very German like *Tasse, Lärche, Sandelholz* and *Ebenholz* originated from the Arabic language. Can you imagine modern arithmetic and world economy using Latin numbers instead of Arabic numbers. Goethe, Lessing and Ruckert were influenced by Arab-Islamic philosophy and religion.

Koffer, Couffre

[Arabic: *quffa*: Flechtkorb, braided basket]

The Spanish word *cofa* or *alcofa* and Catalan *koffa* mean *Koffer* (basket); Sardinian: *goffa*; Italian: *coffa*; French: *coffre*. In the 12th century, the German word *Koffer* was derived from the French word *coffre*. The German words *Kuffer, Koffer, Kofferan* surface in the 16th and 17th centuries. Lessing uses the word *Couffre* (French influence?). (Osman, p. 68)

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Vegetables, Fruits & Drinks

Arabic	Spanish/ Italian	German
asabanach	espinaca/ spinaci	Spinat
harshuf - ardi shauki	alcachofa/carciofo	Artischoke
badingan	berenjera/ melanzane	Aubergine
sukar	azukar/ zucchero	Zucker
qandi sukar	zucchero cadito	Kandiszucker
al-barquq	albaricoque/ albarcuco	Aprikose
za'faran	azafran/ zafferano	Safran
sharaba, scherbett	sorbete/ sorbetto	Sorbet
sharab	siorpe/ sciroppo	Syrup
kahva	café/ caffè	Kaffee
Mocha in Jemen	moca/ mocca	Mocca
bunn (Arabic for coffee)		Kaffeebohnen (coffee bean)

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Internet sites

- **Islam in Germany:**
<http://www.islam.de>
- **Islamrat der Bundesrepublik Deutschland:**
<http://www.islamrat.de>
- **Islam in Österreich:**
<http://www.sbg.ac.at/tkr/texte/furche/09.html>
- **Islamische Glaubensgemeinschaft in Österreich IGGiÖ**
<http://www.derislam.at/>
- **Muslime und Musliminnen der Schweiz (MMS):**
<http://www.islam.ch>
- **Ligue des Musulmans de Suisse:**
<http://www.rabita.ch/>