Islam in German-speaking Countries

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
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“
Islam in Switzerland

- 936 – Sarzanene
- 940 – Abtei von Saint-Maurice im Rhône-Tal geplündert
- Allalphorn – 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 türkischen eroberer genannt.
- 1940 Türkische Elite zum Studium in die Schweiz
- 1970er Gastarbeiter

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.
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)

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.
Article 16 of the German Basic law
(Constitution)

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

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

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

#### Muslims in Germany: December 2001

- **Turkey**: 1,947,938
- **Bosnia**: 159,042
- **Iran**: 98,555
- **Morocco**: 79,444
- **Afghanistan**: 71,662
- **Lebanon**: 49,109
- **Pakistan**: 35,433
- **Tunisia**: 24,066
- **Germans**: 150,000
- **Others**: 384,751

- **Total**: ~3,200,000
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.

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.

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.

Deutschsprachiger Muslimkreis Berlin e.V. (www.dmk-berlin.de)
This is a German-speaking religious association of Muslims from over 15 countries.

Deutsch-Türkisches Jugendwerk (www.dtjw.de)
This German-Turkish Youth Organization initiates dialogues among German and Turkish youth in Frankfurt/Main.

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.

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))

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

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

Visible large distinct Muslim families
The lone invisible single man
We want suffrage!

Arson attack in Solingen, May 1993. Five members of a Turkish family burned to death.
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.)
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.”
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?

“They 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.”

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influence of Arabic language and culture in Europe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The following are English words from Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foods introduced to the West by Arabs and Muslims:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>admiral</th>
<th>cane</th>
<th>magazine</th>
<th>apricots</th>
<th>limes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adobe</td>
<td>carafe</td>
<td>magnet</td>
<td>Artichokes</td>
<td>oranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alchemy</td>
<td>check</td>
<td>marzipan</td>
<td>asparagus</td>
<td>pomegranates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alcove</td>
<td>check-mate</td>
<td>mattress</td>
<td>bananas</td>
<td>quinces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alfalfa</td>
<td>cipher</td>
<td>nadir</td>
<td>Buckwheat</td>
<td>rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>algebra</td>
<td>(sifr=zero)</td>
<td>racquet</td>
<td>cherries</td>
<td>spinach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>algorithm</td>
<td>coffee</td>
<td>saffron</td>
<td>dates</td>
<td>strawberries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alkai</td>
<td>cotton</td>
<td>sash</td>
<td>figs</td>
<td>sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>almanac</td>
<td>crimson</td>
<td>satin</td>
<td>ginger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arsenal</td>
<td>damask</td>
<td>sherbet</td>
<td>grapefruit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>atlas</td>
<td>elixir</td>
<td>sugar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>average</td>
<td>gauze</td>
<td>sumac</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>azure</td>
<td>gypsum</td>
<td>syrup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baroque</td>
<td>hazard</td>
<td>tambourine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bamacks</td>
<td>jar</td>
<td>tariff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caliber</td>
<td>jasmine</td>
<td>traffic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>candy</td>
<td>lute</td>
<td>zenith</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>macabre</td>
<td>zero</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, Koff, Kofferan surface in the 16th and 17th centuries. Lessing uses the word Couffre (French influence?). (Osman, p. 68)
## Vegetables, Fruits & Drinks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Spanish/ Italian</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>asabanach</td>
<td>espinaca/ spinaci</td>
<td>Spinat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>harshuf - ardi shanki</td>
<td>alcachofa/carciofo</td>
<td>Artischoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>badingan</td>
<td>berenjera/ melanzane</td>
<td>Aubergine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sukar</td>
<td>azukar/ zucchero</td>
<td>Zucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qandi sukar</td>
<td>zucchero cadito</td>
<td>Kandiszucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-barquq</td>
<td>albaricoque/ albaruco</td>
<td>Aprikose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>za‘faran</td>
<td>azafran/ zafferano</td>
<td>Safran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sharaba, scherbett</td>
<td>sorbete/ sorbetto</td>
<td>Sorbet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sharab</td>
<td>siorpe/ sciroppo</td>
<td>Syrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kahva</td>
<td>café/ caffé</td>
<td>Kaffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mocha in Jemen</td>
<td>moca/ mocca</td>
<td>Mocca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bunn (Arabic for coffee)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kaffebohnen (coffee bean)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Internet sites

- **Islam in Germany:**
  [http://www.islam.de](http://www.islam.de)

- **Islamrat der Bundesrepublik Deutschland:**
  [http://www.islamrat.de](http://www.islamrat.de)

- **Islam in Österreich:**
  [http://www.sbg.ac.at/kr/texte/furche/09.html](http://www.sbg.ac.at/kr/texte/furche/09.html)

- **Islamische Glaubensgemeinschaft in Österreich IGGiÖ**
  [http://www.derislam.at/](http://www.derislam.at/)

- **Muslime und Musliminnen der Schweiz (MMS):**
  [http://www.islam.ch](http://www.islam.ch)

- **Ligue des Musulmans de Suisse:**
  [http://www.rabita.ch/](http://www.rabita.ch/)