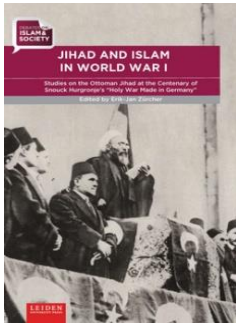




Jihad in World War One

Studies on the Ottoman Jihad on the Centenary of Snouck Hurgronje's "Holy War Made in Germany"

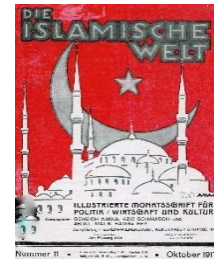
Dutch scholar Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje published a book in World War I, [The Holy War "Made in Germany"](#) that blamed the German cofounder of modern Islamic studies, Carl Heinrich [Becker](#), for World War I's German-Ottoman jihad. A century later, contributors to this multi-author volume [confirm](#) his point.



That [jihad](#) attempted to mobilize Muslims against [Europe's colonies](#) even though this represented a genocidal threat to non-Muslim minorities living in Muslim ruled [areas](#). The [kaiser](#) and his [Islamic scholars](#) had [discussed](#) this [problem](#) since 1908 but saw no way to stop the deadly side effects against the [Armenians](#) and other [minorities](#), such as the [Jews](#). This was no regional jihad, like that against the Ottomans and British in [Sudan](#) in 1881, or local jihads against Russians in Iran in 1910, or Italians in Tripolitania in 1911; it was a full-bore interfaith world war [coalition](#).

Among the most important chapters is that by M. Şükrü Hanioglu, who writes of a double [jihad](#): the Ottoman global jihad for the Sunnis and the [kaiser](#), and the regional Shiite jihad beyond Iraq to defend Istanbul's provinces. Critical to these, I add, was the Egyptian Sunni Abd al-Malik Hamza, who edited the first Arab "theory of Islamism," نظرية الإسلامية, in 1917.

Hamza issued his October theory of Islamism in German, Berlin, and Arabic in Istanbul



Hanioglu names a dozen Shiites who issued jihad fatwas against the Allies, among them Mustafa al-Kashani. Even earlier, in Iran in 1915, as-Sayyid Hibat ad-Din Muhammad ash-Shahrastani issued a jihad fatwa. That German [scholars](#) were behind it is [clear](#): Helmut Ritter of the Sixth Army in Baghdad translated it from Persian to German; Becker conveyed it to Berlin where [Martin Hartmann](#) and Carl Brockelmann checked the translation, the Berlin journal *Die Welt des Islams* printed it and [Max von Oppenheim](#) widely circulated it by his Mideastern news organization also in Europe.

After World War I, this [jihad concept](#) deeply affected [Muslim](#) politics as [Muslims adopted](#) and [refashioned](#) it in [many variations](#), as did Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who adapted it in the 1979 Islamist revolution in Iran.

Jihad and Islam in World War I adds greatly to a new [area](#) of [research](#).

Wolfgang G. Schwanitz

Jihad and Islam in World War I. Studies on the Ottoman Jihad on the Centenary of Snouck Hurgronje's "Holy War Made in Germany." Edited by Erik-Jan Zürcher. Leiden, NL.: Leiden University Press, 2016. 353 pp. \$59, paper. This text appeared first in *The Middle East Quarterly*, 25(2018)2; updated, links, pics added.