The Ottoman Sultan-Caliph called for jihad in World War I. According to a fatwa, he, being the sovereign of all Muslims, wanted them now to fight with infidels against infidels and their Muslims. The latter had not only no right to fight back, but they had to turn against their foreign overlords. Sheikh Salih al-Sharif al-Tunisi (1869-1920), a Tunisian mufti (picture), confident of the Ottoman war minister Enver Pasha and activist in Max von Oppenheim's News Department, confirmed in a booklet the new jihad doctrine on the side of the Austro-German central powers.

Enver Pasha had asked Sheikh Salih to travel to Berlin to popularize jihad among the Germans. For this purpose Sheikh Salih wrote a commentary. His Haqiqat al-Jihad or The Truth of Jihad was edited in 1915 by the German Society for the Study of Islam. Martin Hartmann of the Seminar of Oriental Languages in Berlin wrote a friendly foreword and the dragoman Karl E. Schabinger an afterword. Both recommended this "Euro-Islam" as a development of jihad. What did Sheikh Salih say? A “partial jihad” was possible: on the side of allied infidels just against certain enemy infidels. This jihad was an individual duty for Muslims. Peace between the area of Islam and Europe is possible - if there was no longer any foreign occupation of Islamic lands.