

oriented liberalism, as in the case of Mesut Yilmaz, both of whom served as prime ministers in the mid-1990s, that challenged the republican security paradigm. As a result, Turkey “continued to exhibit that strange combination of reluctant assertiveness” (p. 148) in its foreign and security policy until the end of the 1990s. A paradigm crisis in Turkish strategic culture was inevitable with the coming to power of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2002, which tried to combine Islamic values with democracy. In doing so they relied heavily on a new vision reflecting neo-Ottoman perspective—although this neo-Ottomanist idea is questionable—as represented by the political scientist Ahmet Davutoğlu, who is currently serving as the foreign minister.

This book is recommended especially to those who are interested in learning about the most important events as well as actors in the Turkish foreign and security policy-making process in the last century, starting from the very last years of the Ottoman Empire, from a dif-

ferent and critical scholarly perspective based on a broad literature and sometimes first-hand information. It is very interesting to see how the domestic and foreign policy in Turkey have interacted in terms of foreign and security policy making and how Turkish foreign policy has sailed not only between daring and caution, but also between republican and imperial paradigms throughout the century.

However, it is necessary to have prior background information on Turkish foreign and security policy as well as on the central themes and figures of the history of Turkey to have a better understanding of this book. Even though this book has covered many aspects of Turkish foreign policy, it would also be useful if other important aspects, like Turkey’s opening up towards Africa after the 2000s or Turkey’s active participation in certain international organizations such as the UN, were also analyzed from a broader perspective. Sometimes it falls into the trap of too much emphasis on Turkish domestic politics at the expense of its foreign policy.

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## Britain and the Muslim World: Historical Perspectives

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*Edited by* Gerald MacLean

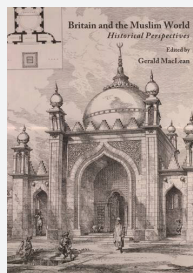
Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011, 306 pages, ISBN 9781443825900, \$67.99.

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*Reviewed by* Nabil Matar

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THIS BOOK shows how much opportunity the field of Anglo-Islamic studies still offers future scholars. Based on papers that were presented at a wonderful three-day conference held at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter in April 2009, this collection brings together a wide range



of topics. The papers are organized chronologically, and, like all collections produced after conferences, vary in approach, originality and scope. Given Britain’s extensive historical, cultural, commercial, and religious interactions with various parts of the Islamic world, from the early modern period until today,

the essays point in different directions, from an interesting discussion of Lady Wortley Montagu's son (by Bernadette Andrea) to the manner in which Muslims are portrayed on British television (by Peter Morey whose discussion has now morphed into a full-length book with Amina Yaqin, *Framing Muslims*) and the role that Muslim women play in today's Cardiff, a city taken as a case study (by Marta Warat) to the BBC's biased coverage of the Middle East (by Tim Llewellyn, whose book, *Spirit of the Phoenix*, was released in 2010).

Such a wide scope is a bit bewildering, but also inevitable in a book that attempts to sweep through four centuries of history. At the same time, it is eye-opening because it shows that there is much interesting work on literary texts as well as on portraits (such as the excellent study of Robert and Teresa Sherley by Kate Arthur), and Owen Jones's diagrams and designs (by Abraham Thomas). And while some essays show the continuity of scholarship from earlier publications, others point in new directions. Ziad Elmarsafy discusses the English translations of the Qur'an, addressing some of the criticisms that has been leveled at them. He argues, cogently, for separating the quality of the translation from what sometimes is seen as their purported ideological biases, and concludes with a wish: notwithstanding his (and my) admiration for Tarif Khalidi's recent Penguin translation, he

believes there should be a committee of scholars to undertake a translation on the scale of the Jerusalem Bible translation.

Two papers focus on the important history of British trade with India (by Om Prakash and Rajani Sudan), and Lady Wortley Montagu could not but have attracted more than one study (Georgina Lock who examines the "performance" in Montagu's account, and a second chapter by Bernadette Andrea), and English pilgrims to Mecca likewise have two chapters, one on Joseph Pitts, who went at the end of the seventeenth century (by Humberto Garcia), and a second on Lady Evelyn Cobbold who went at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (by William Facey). Alongside these historical studies are ones focused on contemporary issues in the United Kingdom, whether about immigrants in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (by Sarah Hackett), or on the impact of the fatwas of Sayyid Mutwalli ad-Darsh on British Muslims (by Gerard Wiegers).

There are other essays on Arabian horses (by Donna Landry), identity in early Palestinian literature (by Ahmed Massoud), and others – all in all nineteen chapters plus an introduction. The book should appeal to readers eager to explore new areas of research as *Britain and the Muslim World* shows that there is much to be done, and that more conferences of this wide scope should be given academic and institutional support.