

## The Ahmadiyya Quest for Religious Progress

# Muslim Minorities

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# The Ahmadiyya Quest for Religious Progress

*Missionizing Europe 1900–1965*

By

Gerdien Jonker



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Cover illustration: Islam lesson in the Berlin mission house in 1935. The text on the blackboard is a line from the Persian poet Nasir Din al-Shah: "A (good) friend will never complain about his friend." Photograph taken from the Album "Mosque & Friends", PA Oettinger, courtesy Suhail Ahmad.

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Berlin, October 2015

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# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA	<i>Archiv des Auswärtiges Amt Berlin</i> (Archive of the Foreign Office in Berlin)
AAII	<i>Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam</i>
AAIIL	<i>Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam Lahore</i>
AMA	Ahmadiyya mosque archive Berlin
AMC	US television channel
AMJ	<i>Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat</i>
BA	<i>Bundesarchiv</i> (Federal Archive Germany)
BLA	<i>Berliner Lokal Zeitung</i> (Berlin Local Paper)
BT	<i>Berliner Tageblatt</i> (Berlin Daily)
CV	<i>Central-Verein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens</i> (Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith)
DAZ	<i>Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung</i> (German General Paper)
DGI	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Islamkunde</i> (German Society for the Knowledge of Islam)
DIG	<i>Die Islamische Gegenwart</i> (The Islamic Presence)
DMG	<i>Deutsch–Moslemische Gesellschaft</i> (German-Muslim Society)
GIG	<i>Gesellschaft für Islamische Gottesverehrung e.V.</i> (Society for Islamic Piety)
GR	<i>German Reichsmark</i>
IE	<i>Islam Echo</i>
IGB	<i>Islamische Gemeinde zu Berlin</i> (Islamic Community of Berlin)
IIB	<i>Islam-Institut zu Berlin</i> (Islam-Institute Berlin)
IR	<i>Islamic Revue</i>
IWC	<i>Islamic World Conference</i>
IZI	<i>Islamisches Zentral Institut</i> (Islamic Central Institute)
LA	<i>Landesarchiv Berlin–Brandenburg</i> (State Archive of Berlin–Brandenburg)
LMC	London Mosque Cultural Centre
MR	<i>Moslemische Revue</i>
MS	<i>Moslem Sunrise</i>
NN	Anonymus
NSDAP	<i>National–Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei</i> (National Socialist German Democratic Workers Party)
PA	Private archives
POW	Prisoner of war
RR	<i>The Review of Religions</i>
RSHA	<i>Reichssicherheitshauptamt</i> (“The Central Security Office” = The War Ministry)

SS	<i>Schutzstaffel der NSDAP</i> (Protective Arm of the Nazi Party)
VR	<i>Vereinsregister</i> (Register Office)
VZ	<i>Vossische Zeitung</i> ( <i>The Vossian Paper</i> )
ZIIAD	<i>Zentrales Islam-Institut Deutschland</i> (Central Islam-Institute Germany)

## Note on Spelling

The Ahmadiyya publications that were consulted for this book employed Urdu spellings that were not uniform. In the 1920s and 1930s especially, with a view to the task at hand to missionize among the Europeans, it seems to have been a rule of thumb to avoid spellings that were foreign to the European eye. In line with this, Urdu proper names and religious terms of Arabic origin were rendered in Turkish and other spellings that were often grammatically incorrect.

On the pages of this book, this original spelling practice has been respected as much as possible, not the least because it beautifully illustrates the mission intention of getting as close as possible to the mission object. Nonetheless, wherever the Ahmadiyya writers produced inconsistencies among themselves, we settled upon the most frequently used spelling, for instance *Ahmadiyya* (not: *Ahmadiyye*), and *Mevlana* (not: *Mawlana*), – except of course when spelled differently in quotations and titles.

The same goes for the spelling of Urdu names. Wherever we encountered different spellings of the same name (i.e. *Sadr Uddin*, *Sadr Ud-din* and *Sadr-ud-din*), we settled upon the one that occurred most often (*Sadr-ud-din*).

In the “Glossary of Islamic Terms” correct spellings have been added in brackets according to the valid academic convention wherever necessary. But in the body of the text we refrained from doing so in order not to disrupt the flow.

# Glossary of German Terms

<i>Aliyah</i>	“Ascent”: German Zionist Youth Movement
<i>Bruderhof</i>	“Brother farm”: A Christian youth movement of the 1920s that wanted to re-enact the Sermon on the Mount
<i>Christliches Abendland</i>	“Christian Occident”: an ideological term used for border making between “Europe” and its Muslim neighbours
<i>Das tausendjährige Reich</i>	“The thousand-year reign”: the Nazi conception of the long-livety of their government
<i>Der Blaue Reiter</i>	“The Blue Rider”: the famous exhibition, in Munich in 1911, of expressionist painters
<i>Deutschheit</i>	“German-ness”: a variety of approaches to being German, modern and anti-modern visions included
<i>Doppelgänger</i>	“Twin brother”: The curious alliance between Nazism and Modernity
<i>Fliegenglas</i>	“Fly glass”: a glass with a small opening, filled with vinegar to catch mosquitos. Philosophical term, introduced by Ludwig von Wittgenstein to express the phenomenon of thought blanks
<i>Fremdstämmigenkartei</i>	“Index of persons of alien race” or “Jew index”: The infamous Nazi file in which Jewish genealogies as far back as 1665 were collected
<i>Gemeinde</i>	“Community”: short for the Islamic Community Berlin
<i>Gestalt Therapie</i>	“Gestalt’ therapy”: An experiential form of psychoanalysis footing in a person’s ability to take personal responsibility
<i>Generation 1902</i>	“The generation born in 1902”: The age group that was despised for being born too late to experience the trenches of WWI
<i>Gesellschaft</i>	“Society”: short for The German-Muslim Society
<i>Heil Hitler</i>	“Hail Hitler”: The official greeting in Nazi Germany
<i>Kaiserreich</i>	The period of the German Empire 1871–1918
<i>Kulturträger</i>	“Upholders of Culture”: Germans who were thought to incorporate German culture
<i>Lebensreform</i>	“Life Reform”: German youth movement around 1900 that experimented with modern life styles; <i>Lebensreformer</i> : followers of the <i>Lebensreform</i> movement
<i>Lichtbringer</i>	“Carriers of Light”: spiritual concept of the <i>Lebensreform</i> movement

<i>Leitstellen</i>	“Central Offices”: Nazi units, which organized the inclusion of Muslim prisoners of war into the Wehrmacht and ss
<i>Mensch</i>	“Man”; <i>Der neue Mensch</i> : “New Man” – a topic of speculation in the interwar period; <i>Übermensch</i> : man rising above himself (Nietzschian term); <i>Untermensch</i> : racial inferior man (Nazi term)
<i>Muselgermane</i>	“Muslim-German”: an upgrading term for Muslim soldiers in German armies
<i>Mysterium Tremendum</i>	“The mystery that causes fear and trembling”: The book by Scholar of Religion Rudolf Otto that offered an expression of contemporary religious sentiment
<i>Reichsmark</i>	German Mark in the interwar period
<i>Stunde Null</i>	“Zero hour”: German term indicating a fresh start after 1945
<i>Ur-</i>	German concept that pre-supposes an original state. <i>Ur-Gemeinde</i> : The original (mythical) community; <i>Ur-Heimat</i> : the original (mythical) home country
<i>Wandervögel</i>	“Wandering birds”: German hiking movement in the romantic tradition, and part of the <i>Lebensreform</i> concept
<i>“Wehr Dich!”</i>	“Defend Yourself”: Motto of the Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith to fight anti-Semitism
<i>Wehrmacht</i>	The German regular army during the Nazi Reign

# Glossary of Islamic Terms

<i>Anjuman Taraqqi-i-Islam</i>	“Society for the advancement of Islam”
<i>Bai‘at</i> (Ar. bai‘a)	“Pledge”: an oath given to a religious leader; Sufi terminology
<i>Dajjal</i> (Ar. dajjāl)	“The Anti-Christ”, a concept deriving from Islamic eschatology; term to designate Europe
<i>Da‘wa</i> (Ar. da‘wa)	Muslim duty to strengthen other Muslims in their faith
<i>Fatiha</i> (Ar. fātiḥa)	Opening verse of the Quran, also used in the rite of conversion to Islam
<i>Hadith + Sahih</i> (Ar. ḥadīth; Ar. ṣaḥīḥ, “sound”, a qualification for a most trustworthy ḥadīth)	Oral traditions of the Prophet of Islam
<i>Eid-ul-Adha</i> (Ar. ‘īd al-aḍḥā)	Muslim festival of the sacrifice
<i>Eid-ul-Fitr</i> (Ar. ‘īd al-fitr)	Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan, the fasting month
<i>Iftar</i> (Ar. iftār)	“Breaking fast”: Meal after sundown during the month of Ramadan
<i>Ishaat-i-Islam</i>	Highschool for the training of Muslim missionaries
<i>Jamia Millia Islamia</i>	Muslim National University near Delhi
<i>Jihad</i> (Ar. jihād)	(For Ahmadiyya and other peace traditions in Islam): To propagate Islam, not by force but by appeal to intellect and rationality; refining the inner self (For Muslim revolutionaries and Nazis): Legitimized violence in the name of Islam
<i>Kafir</i> (Ar. kāfir)	Muslim unbeliever; Kufr: “State of unbelieving”
<i>Kismet</i> (Ar. qisma)	Islamic concept of fate
<i>Khalif</i> (Ar. khalifa)	Head of the Muslim community in the Ottoman Empire; Khalifate: The institution of the Khalif; Khalifate Movement: Movement which strove to unite Muslims around the world under the leadership of the Ottoman Khalif
<i>Medrese</i> (Ar. madrasa)	Muslim highschool
<i>Minnaratul Masih</i> (Ar. manārat al-masīḥ)	“The minaret of the Messiah”, concept deriving from Islamic eschatology
<i>Muhaddath</i> (Ar. muḥaddath)	A person through whom God chooses to speak
<i>Mujaddid</i> (Ar. mujaddid)	“The Reformer of the Age”, Islamic concept of regular returning reform

<i>Sadr Anjuman</i>	Organisation dedicated to the propagation of Islam
<i>Sharia</i> (Ar. shari'a)	Islamic Law; Sharia court: Court that applies Islamic Law while regulating questions of religion and daily life
<i>Shura</i> (Ar. shūra)	Islamic council
<i>Sirat al-Nabiy</i> (Ar. sīrat al-nabīy)	Biographies of the Prophet of Islam
<i>Tabligh</i> (Ar. tablīgh)	Spreading Islamic knowledge through lectures
<i>Ta'lim</i> (Ar. ta'līm)	Learning about Islam
<i>Tehrik-e-Jadid</i>	"The New Mission Scheme", a form of money collecting within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat
<i>Takrim</i> (Ar. takrīm)	Sociable gatherings in the religious realm
<i>Taqdir</i> (Ar. taqdīr)	Islamic concept of subjection before God
<i>Tefsir</i> (Ar. tafsīr)	Quran commentaries
<i>Ulema</i> (Ar. 'ulamā')	The Muslim scholarly elite"
<i>Wahy</i> (Ar. waḥy)	"Divine revelation"
<i>Waqf</i> (Ar. waqf)	"Islamic endowment"
<i>Zilli Nabi</i> (Urdu, Zill-i Nabi)	"Shadow of the Prophet"