

## Beyond Oil and Radical Islam: From Classifications to Links of Economy and Religion in Central Asia

Tuesday, October 18th, 2011, 5 pm

### Political Islam and Economy in Central Asia: Islamic Movements, their Socio-Economic Background and Ideological Aspects

Lecture by Parviz Mullojanov

The history of political Islam in Central Asia and CIS countries (as well as in general in the Muslim world) cannot be considered separately from the dynamics of social and economic changes and transformation of local societies. The formation and development of local political organizations and Islamic opposition in CIS countries, their specifics and peculiarities are heavily influenced and predetermined by a number of factors: internal policies of Soviet power, social and economic processes and policy, anti-religious campaigns, forced resettlement of populations etc. As a result, the first underground circles of local Islamic movements and organizations reflected interests of different social factions, ethnic groups, their social and economic concerns. The better understanding of the process of formation of Islamic organizations, their social background, internal and external influence groups, hidden social/economic motivations that drive them into politics allow us to come up with more grounded analyses and prognoses on their future development and role in society.

The presentation covers a set of issues related to the process of formation of Islamic parties in post-Soviet republics (mostly on the base of analyses of the All-Union Renaissance Islamic Party and the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan), their former and current social background, relations to the "shadow economy", criminal leaders and emerging business circles.

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This lecture series is a cooperation between the Zentrum Moderner Orient, the Querschnittsbereich Islam in den Gesellschaften Asiens und Afrikas, Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin ([iaaw.hu-berlin.de/islam](http://iaaw.hu-berlin.de/islam)) and the Competence Network Crossroads Asia ([www.crossroads-asia.de](http://www.crossroads-asia.de)).

During the Soviet era, religion and economy were conceived as distinct, even mutually opposed spheres with their own rationales (such as 'rational actors' on the one hand and 'irrational' 'otherworldly' motivations on the other). A focus on the impact of religious ideas and practices on economic processes - and vice versa - serves to question the common perception of Central Asia as a region determined by either dangerous religious movements or lucrative oil and gas reserves. The lecture series interrogates how 'religion' and 'economy' are shaped and negotiated through everyday strategies and practices. How are separations, links, cross-overs and mutual constitutions of 'religion' and 'economy' conceived and put into practice by Central Asian actors? The lecture series seeks to foreground Central Asian debates on the relationship between religious and economic domains in order to query these social, political and social science categories.

#### Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin-Nikolassee  
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