



ZMO-Colloquium Summer Term 2015

Thursday, May 28th, 2015, 6 pm

Nazareth in the First World War: "stately, open and fragrant"

By William G. Clarence-Smith (SOAS, University of London)

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

World War I did not affect Nazareth as badly as towns elsewhere in the Ottoman empire's Arab lands. Sayyid Wajih al-Kilani, a Muslim notable, protected Christians in the first months of the war, when religious strife briefly flared. A combination of good luck, trading on the town's international reputation, and administrative spending subsequently protected Nazareth from the worst effects of war, and of a deepening economic crisis, which resulted in famine and high mortality elsewhere. When the Australians took Nazareth in late 1918, they reported that the town was 'stately, open, and fragrant,' in stark contrast to many of the other places that they conquered.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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William Gervase Clarence-Smith is Professor of the Economic History of Asia and Africa, at SOAS, University of London. He is currently researching the experience of Nazareth in World War I, with particular reference to Sayyid Wajih al-Kilani, *shaykh al-Islam* of the Philippines. He has published *Islam and the abolition of slavery* (Hurst 2006), and co-edited (with Ulrike Freitag) *Hadhrami traders, scholars and statesmen in the Indian Ocean, 1750s to 1960s* (Brill 1997). He teaches the history of Islamic reform in Southeast Asia, and is the chief editor of the *Journal of Global History* (CUP).