



## Invitation

### ZMO-Kolloquium

Thursday, 26. June 2008, 6 pm

#### Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin

## Manumission movement and slavery in the Persian Gulf in the 1920ies

**Lecture by Prof. Jerzy Zdanowski  
(Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)**

The purpose of this lecture is to show what can be assumed from the British archives about the slave trade and slavery in the Persian Gulf and neighboring countries between 1925 and 1950. The study is based on 72 records of the archive group R/15 „The Bushire Residency“ (the reference R/15/1) followed by the Agencies: Bahrain, R/15/2, Sharjah, R/15/4, Kuwait, R/15/5, and Muscat, R/15/6. Each record contains between 77 and 199 files with applications of fugitive slaves who were entering the British agencies on the Arabian shore of the Persian Gulf demanding manumission. The first manumission certificate found dated 1925, the last one – 1950. Besides slaves stories, the data make it possible to draw conclusions on principal slave routers, waves of influx of the slaves, categories of the slaves, the manumission statistics (694 certificates issued between 1929 and 1938), the British policy and procedures, relations between the slaves and owners, advantages and disadvantages of the slavery, the place of slavery in the economic and social structure. The basic conclusions are contrasted with those found in chosen excellent studies on this subject based on archival sources, among them Suzanne Miers „Slavery and the slave trade in Saudi Arabia and the Arab states on the Persian Gulf, 1921-1963“.

**Jerzy Zdanowski** is Professor and Director of the Centre for Studies on Non-European Countries at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the Institute for International Relations in Moscow. In 1994 he was a Senior Fulbright Scholar at Rutgers University and at Princeton University. His research focuses on history, society and politics of the Middle East. Prof. Zdanowski is the Editor-in-Chief of the annual journal „Hemispheres. Studies on Cultures and Societies“. Among his numerous publications are 'The 1933 and 1937 Rebellions in Sinkiang', in *Modern History of China*, 2005, 'Putin beneath the pyramids', *Bitterlemons-international*, ed. 22, vol. 3 – June 16, 2005, 'From religious conversion to cultural assimilation. Some remarks on the fates of Polish immigrants to the Ottoman Empire (1831-1849)', 'Saving sinners, even Moslems' and 'The Arabian Mission in the Arabian Gulf', in: 'Conversions islamiques. Identités religieuses en Islam méditerranéen' edited by Mercedes Garcia-Arenal, Paris, Maisonneuve & Larose, 2001.

Further information: <http://www.zkp.pan.pl/>

Der nächste Vortrag im ZMO-Kolloquiums findet am 27.07.08 um 18 Uhr statt: David Motadel (Pembroke College Cambridge) spricht über „Islamische Bürgerlichkeit: Das soziale Milieu der muslimischen Minderheit in Deutschland, 1918-1939“.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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