



Europa im Nahen Osten
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Participants are asked to register at the following address:

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The seminar is part of the activities of the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) and of 'Cities Compared: Cosmopolitanism in the Mediterranean and Adjacent Regions', a research field within 'Europe in the Middle East - The Middle East in Europe' (EUME), a research program of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.zmo.de>
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**Fritz Thyssen Stiftung**
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSFÖRDERUNG

Invitation ZMO-EUME-Colloquium**Urban Studies Seminar**

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi
Annual Theme 2010 -2011: Urban Violence

Monday, December 13th, 2010, 5 pm

Fanatics? - Foreigners, Notables and Officials in Jeddah urban disorders of the 1850s**Lecture by Philippe Pétriat**

On June 15th 1858, a riot occurred in Jeddah, the main harbour of Hijaz. It ended with the deaths of the consuls and of eighteen members of the European community. Among the many urban disorders that occurred in the mid-nineteenth century Middle East in general and in Jeddah in particular, this massacre still appears to be an irrational and out-of-date reaction to a very small and recent foreign presence. Europeans swiftly ascribed the events to the "fanaticism" of the population and its notables, whereas the massacre is still reminded locally as a great fitna in a town usually known for being used to cosmopolitanism and international trade.

Jeddah disorders cannot be understood unless we set them in the historical frame of the mid nineteenth century. Political and economic upheavals deeply affected the societies exposed to European pressures and foreign presence, and it is in such a context that urban societies could resort to violence in an attempt to negotiate the conditions of modernization. However, to understand the rationality of violence, its social meanings, the way it mirrored the urban society and its mood, we have to address the very local frame and setting of the massacre - as far as we can know it.

In this lecture, we'll try to start from the first day of the riot, to consider the different forms of violence and its victims in the city. The question of "fanaticism" is then addressed in an attempt to understand who engaged in violence, how they rallied and why they used a religious language when the massacre is singled out by the conspicuous absence of men of religion. Notables, merchants and seamen were the main elements of the mob at the beginning of the riot, and violence was circumscribed to specific places (the harbour, the Consulates and the market) and specific figures (the "foreigner" and the "fanatics", the European Merchants and the Hadramis). Finally, we shall consider how the local and daily history set up mechanisms that help explain how urban violence can result from both major issues of conditions of co-existence and co-activity in an urban space, and the everyday triviality of an urban society.

Philippe Pétriat is preparing a PhD in History, directed by Pr. Nadine Picaudou, and is PhD Assistant (University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne) in History. He is currently working on the history of Hadhrami merchants in the Hijaz (19th and 20th centuries).

Presentation of the Seminar

What is the experience of cities in the former territories of the Ottoman Empire - in Asia, Europe and adjacent regions, the Middle East, and North Africa - in dealing with the impact of global changes and the transformation from Empire to nation States? How did people of different cultural, social and religious backgrounds live together? How are examples of conviviality, conflict, migration, and urban regimes of governance and stratification conceptualized? And how have urban traditions been reinterpreted, and what bearing does this have on modern conceptions of civil society, multicultural societies, migration, or cosmopolitanism? This year's Seminar will focus on questions of Urban Violence.

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