

## So you want to read about . . . Muslim-Christian Relations in North Africa

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Most of the available material is about relations between Muslim Egyptians and Copts in Egypt, and French Catholics and Muslim Algerians in Algeria, since these are the only countries in North Africa where, in modern times, large numbers of Muslims and Christians have coexisted in the same territory. Elsewhere, the historical North African church was extinguished in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and between then and the modern era, relationships were mainly conducted at a distance.

A good introduction to the early history, with a helpful bibliography, is Robin Daniel's, *This Holy Seed: Faith, Hope and Love in the Early Churches of North Africa*, (UK, Tamarisk, 1993). There were several Christian missionary endeavours between the eclipse of the church and the modern era, the best known figure being Ramon Llull (c. 1235-1316). A later missionary, Samuel Zwemer, gives an account of his life in *Raymond Lull, First Missionary to the Moslems*, (New York and London, Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1902, reprinted by Diggory Press, 2006).

From the nineteenth and early twentieth century, we have illuminating accounts from colonial as well as missionary figures. Edward William Lane's *The Manners & Customs of the Modern Egyptians*, 1836, (available online and through Cosimo classics 2005) is remarkable for the author's rare degree of identification with Arab culture, and includes an appendix which gives a brief account of the Copts in Egypt. *A Memoir of Sir John Drummond Hay*, (London: John Murray Albemarle Street, 1896) is L.A.E. Brooks' biography of a man who was British ambassador to Morocco for about 50 years in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It gives a vivid account of the difficulties besetting relations between Muslims and Christians in North Africa in the age of empire.

W.H.T. Gairdner's *The Rebuke of Islam* (London, United Council for Missionary Education, 1911, originally entitled *The Reproach of Islam*) is an attempt from a well-known missionary to Egypt to compare the social impact of Christianity and Islam. The fifth edition (1920) is available online at: <http://www.archive.org/details/therebukeofislam00gairuoft>. A later missionary, Constance Padwick, wrote Gairdner's biography: *Temple Gairdner of Cairo*, (SPCK, 1929). An Islamic view of another famous missionary is Ali Merad's *Christian Hermit in an Islamic World: A Muslim's View of Charles de Foucauld*, (Paulist Press, 1999). De Foucauld (1858-1916), the founder of the Little Brothers of Jesus order, lived alone in the Sahara for many years. See M.M. Preminger, *The Sands of Tamanrasset: The Story of Charles de Foucauld*, New York, Hawthorn, 1961.

Of more recent works there is space here for only a starter bibliography:

### Egypt:

Griffith, Sidney H., *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque: Christians and Muslims in the World of Islam*, Princeton, NJ, Princeton University Press, 2008.

Much of this book deals with the Eastern churches, but there is a section on the Coptic church.

Hasan, Sana S., *Christians versus Muslims in Modern Egypt: The Century-long Struggle for Coptic Equality*, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Meinardus, Otto F.A., *Christians in Egypt: Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Communities Past and Present*, Cairo, American University in Cairo Press, 2006.

Makari, Peter E., *Conflict and Cooperation: Christian-Muslim Relations in Contemporary Egypt*, New York, Syracuse University Press, 2007.

Sharkey, Heather J., *American Evangelicals in Egypt: Missionary Encounters in an Age of Empire*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2008.

Stephanous, Andrea Zaki, *Political Islam, Citizenship, and Minorities: The Future of Arab Christians in the Islamic Middle East*, University Press of America, 2010.

Has a section on Coptic relationships with the Muslim state and compares the situation in Egypt to that in Lebanon.

### North Africa:

Entelis, John P., "Religion and politics in Algeria: Conflict or consensus?" *Islam & Christian-Muslim Relations*, 12.4, 2001, pp.417-434.

Maameri, Fatima, "Ottoman Algeria in Western Diplomatic history with Particular Emphasis on Relations with the United States of America, 1776-1816", Doctoral dissertation, Faculty of Letters and Languages, University Mentouri, Constantine, 2008.

An example of how many North Africans see Muslim-Christian relations against the background of the reconquista. The thesis is available online.

Wellman, David Joseph, *Sustainable Diplomacy: Ecology, Religion and Ethics in Muslim-Christian Relations*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. (Set in the context of modern Morocco-Spanish relations).

Windler, Christian, "Diplomatic History as a Field for Cultural Analysis: Muslim-Christian Relations in Tunisia, 1700-1840," *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 1, March 2001, pp.79-106.

Zebiri, Kate, "Relations between Muslims and Non-Muslims in the thought of Western-educated intellectuals," *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, 6.2, 1995, pp.255-277.

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