

Tuesday, 11 June 2019, 2 pm

Soviet Madrasah Students' Practices at the Universities of the Middle East, 1955-1990

Lecture by Zilola Khalilova (Academy of Sciences Uzbekistan)

In this talk, we discuss the history of the experience of studying abroad of Soviet Muslims, who were trained at Islamic Universities of Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Libya, Jordan and Morocco in 1955-1990. The Soviet Union established diplomatic relations with Arab countries during the "Cold War" to demonstrate "religious freedom" to the world and permitted to open Miri-Arab madrasah and the Tashkent Islamic Institute/*Oliy Ma'had*. This process took place in the context of international relations and diplomacy, which influenced the decisions and behaviors of foreign policy. The Soviet state thus used the Spiritual Administration in establishing relations with Middle Eastern countries and permitted to send students of madrasahs to study at Islamic Universities.

The main aim of this project is to study the exchange of madrasah students who were involved in and used international relations. The analysis of those students' activities who studied in Islamic Universities is based on students' correspondence. It is remarkable that the Soviet state is interested in these relations, namely, students studying abroad, which helped to demonstrate the "religious freedom" of the Muslim population and strengthened its policies in the Middle East. Soviet madrasah students participated actively in this "political game", remained loyal to the government, and informed the relevant political missions with data through their correspondence.

Zilola Khalilova is a research fellow at the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences Uzbekistan. She is working on Islamic education in Soviet and post-Soviet Uzbekistan and published several papers on this topic: Soviet Ideology and practice in Uzbek madrasah: student's language and behavior as a representation of Soviet Islam // Religious Education between Radicalism and Tolerance, Eds. Ednan Aslan, published by Springer, Germany (2018); Madrasah students in Soviet Uzbekistan (1945-1991): social life and daily practice // Russia and Muslim world. No.10 (304) (2017). She presented at International conferences "The path to modernization: Concepts of education and intellectual diversity in Turkestan (19th – early 20th century)// Education and Enlightenment(s). Ideals and realities – Periods and Cultures" Saarbrücken, Germany 19-21 March 2019; The Two Approaches of Public Education in the early-Soviet Turkestan: The case of Muslim University in Tashkent //The University Question in Caucasia and Central Asia from the Middle of the 19th Century until the Foundation of the First Universities. LMU Munich, Germany, 8-10 October 2018.

Venue

Leibniz-Zentrum moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
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