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Book Review by Tara A. Leweling, "Islam, Europe's Second Religion: The New Social, Cultural, and Political Landscape", edited by Shireen T. Hunter

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took another such catastrophe and crash to finally end the SeaMaster saga, but not before millions more dollars were wasted on a program that never should have gone past the drawing board. Trimble summarizes the failures of the SeaMaster and its SSF cohorts:

The SSF fell far short of what it proponents advocated,

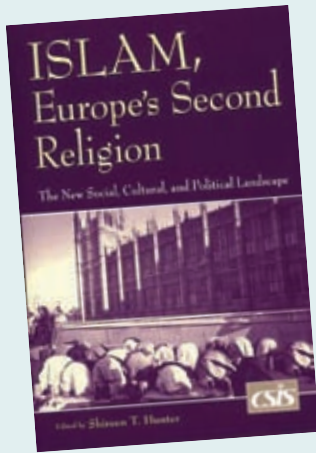
due in part to technological and managerial shortcomings and in part to strategic, operational, and economic realities. . . . Advocates of the concept did themselves no favors either by consistently underestimating its costs and the time needed for development. . . . Planners and strategists would do well to take the lessons of the SSF to heart before forging ahead

with costly technologies based on preconceived expectations that they will . . . bring about a revolution in the way wars are fought and won (pp. 140, 142).

As a former test pilot who watched the A-12, P-7, and EA-6B Advanced Capability programs be cancelled and who recently worked in the Marine Corps' Aviation Programs and Weapons

System Branch as the MV-22 and Joint Strike Fighter were under constant review, this reviewer found portions of this book painful to read. Even with today's computer-aided design and analysis technologies, and despite the best hopes and intentions of platform advocates, machine and human errors still create problems. I can only imagine what present-day

major program managers and service acquisition executives would think if they were to read *Attack from the Sea*. In truth, Santayana's condemnation might be avoided by reading Trimble's work. **JFQ**



Islam, Europe's Second Religion: The New Social, Cultural, and Political Landscape

Edited by Shireen T. Hunter
New York: Praeger, 2002
312 pp. \$28.95
ISBN 0-2759-7609-2

Book Review by
TARA A. LEWELING

Explosions tore through London subways in June 2005, killing 52 and injuring 700; 4 months later, riots broke out in immigrant-dominated areas around Paris and beyond. According to the British Broadcasting Company, young Muslim Britons planted the bombs in the London underground. The riots in France were prompted by the accidental electrocution of two Muslim youths who, according to community leaders, were being chased by French police at the time of their deaths, a charge denied by local officials. Regardless of whether gendarmerie were involved, the outcome was clear: nearly 3 weeks of rioting, 9,000 cars set ablaze, and 3,000 arrests. Yet many U.S. military personnel in U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) positions lacked a context for understanding these violent events, particularly in terms of how Muslim communities within Western European

countries interact with their governments.

Islam, Europe's Second Religion helps to address this shortfall. Shireen Hunter's edited collection of essays by scholars on the demographics, structure, organization, and mobilization of Muslims in Europe highlights commonalities and differences of the Islamic experience among Western European nations. The first part of the volume focuses on Islam within the context of state boundaries, while the second part explores transnational issues related to Muslims in Europe, such as the generation gap among first- and second-generation immigrants and the relationship of European Muslims to European Union foreign policy. Each country-specific section offers the basic demographics and ethnic heritage of Muslims in each country, as well as aggregate information about the civic organizations, such as mosques and Islamic charities, associated with the Muslim faith in

Western Europe. Attempts at pan-ethnic organizing, particularly through umbrella organizations, are also discussed. The second part of Hunter's volume examines transnational cultural trends related to Islam, such as how European-based Islamic scholars are changing global interpretations of Islam, as well as how issues such as racism and marginalization are affecting second-generation Muslim immigrants in Western European countries.

This volume offers a contemporary view, in aggregate terms, of the Muslim experience in Western Europe. While some of the data (such as specific demographic details) is outdated, those looking for such critical information as the history of contemporary Islamic immigration to Europe and the interaction of Islamic organizations with state institutions will be well served by this collection. For military personnel serving in USEUCOM and NATO or with NATO officers in coalition

environments, the volume offers particular insight into a growing influence on the foreign policy of NATO members. Personnel focused on long-term force planning will benefit from the key insight that the demographic composition of many NATO member states is rapidly changing. Those focused on shorter-term, current-year force execution will enhance their understanding of the intricate social forces affecting the domestic governance of NATO nations. Moreover, Hunter's volume points out that individual member states are responding differently to the challenge of integrating disparate ethnic communities into their social fabrics; it is possible that these differences will affect future foreign and military policies of NATO nations. As a result, close reading of *Islam, Europe's Second Religion* offers U.S. military personnel a chance to better understand and appreciate not only the social dynamics affecting some of the United States' key partners in the global war on terror, but also unique national aspects of these social dynamics.

The Paris riots probably were not related to any specific terrorist plot, and much remains unknown about the London bombings. Nonetheless, members of al Qaeda and other Islamic-oriented terrorist networks clearly have leveraged established Muslim communities in Europe and elsewhere for logistical support. In most cases, members of these communities have been unwitting enablers of terrorist actions. While other works, such as Marc Sageman's *Understanding Terrorist Networks*,

provide insight into how the intersection of global jihadist ideology and small group dynamics can coalesce into al Qaeda recruits, Hunter's volume explains the environment in which such intersections are possible. As such, the book is an important source for those trying to understand the dynamic, sometimes contentious, nature of Islam and Islamic organizations within Western Europe, and for those seeking insight into a larger context of Islamic community in which al Qaeda recruitment and organizing in Europe play only a minuscule part.

Implications for counterterrorism aside, *Islam, Europe's Second Religion*, is a good read for anyone wanting to be better informed on the Islamic experience in Western Europe from a macroscopic perspective. For those specifically seeking to understand some of the social factors related to the London bombings and Paris riots, Hunter and her colleagues provide a critical context through data-driven analysis, enabling U.S. military personnel to check personal conjecture against empirically based findings. **JFQ**

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