

# **‘Christian-Muslim Relations’**

## **A Bibliographical History project summary**

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Present attitudes between Muslims and Christians are shaped by the remembrance of conflict and cooperation. In order to understand the historical dimensions of mutual perceptions in modern times, the roots of Christian-Muslim relations need to be recovered and accurately mapped. The international project *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History*, initiated by Prof. David Thomas of the University of Birmingham in the UK, strives to compile the records of past encounters of Christians and Muslims in a single bibliographical history, which will become an important tool for future research.

The first part of this project covers the period from the rise of Islam in the early 600s until the year 1500. It encompasses encounters within the extended Mediterranean basin, including the Islamic, Byzantine and Ottoman empires, Armenia, Ethiopia, Spain and Europe. Three volumes of three centuries each will consist of detailed discussions of texts written by the one community about or against the other. They will also include introductory essays on the history of Christian-Muslim interaction, together with accounts of historical, geographical, literary and legal works that refer to the other religious community.

A team of six language experts is working together to produce an exhaustive survey of relevant works, an estimated 1000 in total. This team of language experts collaborates with 50 scholars from 20 different countries who write entries on a wide variety of sources that are treated in this bibliographical history. Brill Publishers will publish the work in the shape of printed volumes but also as an online database. The first volume will go to press in 2008.

This first segment of the bibliography, *CMR1*, which covers the first nine centuries of Islam, will be followed by the following geographically-subdivided volumes:

- *Christian-Muslim Relations: a Bibliographical History 2* – from 1500 to the present in Europe, including European Russia.

- *Christian-Muslim Relations: a Bibliographical History 3* – from 1500 to the present in the Arab heartlands, North Africa, Turkey and Persia.
- *Christian-Muslim Relations: a Bibliographical History 4* – from 1500 to the present in Africa south of the Sahara.
- *Christian-Muslim Relations: a Bibliographical History 5* – from 1500 to the present in South Asia, Central Asia and East Asia.
- *Christian-Muslim Relations: a Bibliographical History 6* – from 1500 to the present in South East Asia and Australasia.
- *Christian-Muslim Relations: a Bibliographical History 7* – from 1500 to the present in the Americas.

These volumes will provide an exhaustive account of Christian-Muslim interaction through history. *CMRI* began in 2006 and will continue through 2009. It is funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. The subsequent parts of the project will start in the near future.

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CMR research team

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