

Ethnic and Religious Cohabitation and Conflict



Ed. H.-C. Günther

East and West

Band 4

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Ethnic and Religious
Cohabitation and Conflict

Ed. by H.-C. Günther

East and West.
Philosophy, ethics, politics
and human rights

Band 4

ed. by H.-C. Günther and Li Yong

Advisory Committee:
Anwar Alam, Ram Adhar Mall, Sebastian Scheerer

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The Old Mosque in Hohhot with the Arab Palace,
photo: H.-C. Günther

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Editor's Preface

This volume collects papers written for two conferences in the PR of China, one in Chongqing (SWUPL) in 2016 (Van der Braak, Bendixsen, Van der Velde/ Zwart, Günther, Mass Immigration ...) and one in Changsha (CSU) in 2015 (Alam, Widiyanto, Magarotto, Apostolidou), as well two external contributions by Peter Cohen and Donald Rayfield. The papers of the Chongqing conference will also be published in Chinese translation in the Human Rights – Journal of SWUPL.

A large part of this volume is dedicated to issues regarding Muslims. Most of these papers come from the conference in Chongqing. However, it was revealing that no paper was delivered on this conference (which dealt with minority rights) on the treatment of Muslims in China. If China does not have an appalling record of slaughtering Muslims around the globe like the West (due to its sane peaceful exterior politics) China does however today have a most shameful record of Muslim discrimination inside the country. In Xinjiang that record is so awful that it is not by chance that nobody in China dares to speak of it: it is worse than the terrible interior record of the West. I have long been silent about what is going on there for certain reasons, so this volume does not contain a paper on this aspect. I shall,

however, in the future deal with this dark side of Chinese contemporary politics too.

However, the most burning issue in the present conflict with Islam and the daily slaughter and torturing of Muslims is the problem of the state of Israel, a topic covered by a shameful silence in the west on all levels. As a frightful document of the unbearable pressure for suppressing free speech even in an academic environment I cite here an e-mail I received from a nowdeceased scholar who was at the time one of the most prominent representative of humanities in a top position in one of the world's leading universities. I received the following e-mail after sending a paper raising questions concerning Israel:

“Dear Hans, I read your letter and attachments with strong sympathy. Unfortunately you have come up against a big TABOO. Whatever we feel about Israel (and I personally believe the Haredim are a menace to the future of that country, and Netanyahu has capitulated to them in order to hold on to power), whatever one feels we risk being labelled antisemitic, and the journals that print our criticism also risk accusations, if they attempt any criticism of Israel. I grew up in a liberal school that was 20-25% Jewish, and well informed of the horrors of the holocaust; in Princeton I supervised liberal secular Israeli graduate students whose dissertation topics the department of religion would not risk

accepting. We must accept an unwarranted silence, or even more unjustified obloquy. For your own sake, can you stay away from these tendentious topics? Even my own favorite paper the Guardian, is kowtowing. And the USA senators and congressmen have been bought by AIPAC subsidies.

Sorry, but do protect yourself from misreading and the antidefamation league!"

In view of the unacceptable blackmail of the world by bunch of despicable people who pretend to represent Jewish interests whereas they are merely defending a murderous regime endangering world peace and reveling in crimes against humanity I am particularly glad to print here an excellent article of Peter Cohen who is one of the few intellectuals in Europe who have the spine to stand up against the shameful consensus of silence dominating western mainstream society.

H.-C. Günther, Müllheim

January 2017

List of Contributors

Anwar Alam is currently associated with Policy Perspective Foundation, New Delhi. Earlier he served as Professor at Zirve University, Turkey, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Among others, he is recipient of the prestigious Aleaxandor von Humboldt Post Doctoral Fellowship.

Eleni Apostolidou holds a PhD in Law, University of Sorbonne, Paris. Her areas of expertise are Constitutional Law, Tax and Public Finance, in which she has published several articles. She was a visiting doctoral student at the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law (WU, Vienna). She has an experience in teaching European and International Public Law. She has been an activist of the movement for Federal Cyprus.

Synnøve Bendixsen is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen (Norway). Her research interests include irregular migration, political mobilisation, Islam and Muslims in Europe, the study of inclusion and exclusion, and processes of marginalization. She has written a number of articles, book chapters, and edited volumes and one monograph: *The Religious Identity of Young Muslim Women in*

Berlin (Brill 2013). Since 2013 she is the co-editor of the *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*.

Peter Cohen studied social psychology , sociology and political science at the University of Amsterdam. PhD thesis “Drugs as a social construct” 1989 University of Amsterdam. Directed the UvA Centre for Drug Research (CEDRO) from 1985 to 2004 Investigated drug use in household populations, and cannabis, cocaine and amphetamine use among experienced consumers. Was active in drug policy reform away from prohibition, in favour of legal access to all drugs.

He retired in 2007. He is involved in Anti-Zionism since the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war.

Hans-Christian Günther, Prof. Dr., is professor for Classics at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg. His research interests span from Classical Antiquity to Philosophy, Ethics and Politics. He is also the author of many verse translations from various languages. Luigi Magarotto, Prof. Dr., is emeritus Professor of Russian at the University of Venice. He is not only an eminent expert of Russian

literature and history with a very broad outlook, but also—beside Donald Rayfield—the internationally leading authority on Georgian literature and history. From 1999 to 2003 he was Director of the Ph.D. programme in East European Studies at the University of Venice. Since 2006 he has served as Chair of the Department of American, Iberian and Slavic Studies. He is honorary professor of the Pedagogical University of Tbilisi. He is member of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia.

Donald Rayfield, Prof. Dr., is emeritus Professor of Russian at the school of Languages, Linguistics and Film, Queen Mary, University of London. He is the author i.a. of a History of Georgian Literature (OUP), a History of Georgia and a book on ‘Stalin’s Hangmen’ (translated into various languages). He is also editor-in-chief of a Georgian-English Dictionary. Recently he is writing a book on the Tartar Khanate of Crimea.

André Van der Braak is professor of Buddhist Philosophy in Dialogue with other World Views at the Faculty of Theology of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His earlier publications include *Religion and Social Cohesion: Western, Chinese and Intercultural Perspectives* (2015; co-edited with Dedong Wei and Caifang Zhu) and *Nietzsche and Zen: Self-overcoming Without a Self* (2011).

Mi Jung (Jumi) Van der Velde is researcher and lecturer at the Hague University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. Mediator and trainer in Intercultural competences. Graduated in International Law, Islam and Arabic and International Relations and International Organizations. Fields of expertise: Human Rights, sustainable development, gender, indigenous people, peace and conflict studies and intercultural communication.

Asfa Widiyaqnto, Dr., is senior lecturer at the State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Salatiga, Indonesia. His research interests include Islamic studies, sociology of religion and philosophy

Tom Zwart is professor of human rights and cross-cultural law at the Law Department of Utrecht University. He is a director of the Cross-cultural Human Rights Centre, which is aimed at drawing the attention of Northern audiences to Southern human rights ideas and concepts.