

## **Ethno-Religious Conflicts and Violence in the Modern Muslim**

In the news media, the Muslim World usually appears as a land of incessant ethnic and religious conflict, an image reinforced by a constant barrage of violent images of massacres, bombings, and war. As these images pass before our eyes, especially Middle Eastern people appear only as the initiators of wanton violence. Furthermore, in this picture, ethno-religious conflicts with very modern roots are instead portrayed as a historical products of ancient hatreds.

This course deals with the history of ethno-religious conflicts in the Modern Muslim World. Rather than seeing these conflicts as the result of essential characteristics of the region's cultures or the product of ancient hatreds, the course brings a multi-dimensional historical approach that examines social, political, economic, religious, and cultural dynamics that created these conflicts. Modernization, colonization, and the emergence of a nation-state system in the Middle East with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire will set the context for our analysis.

Themes include but are not limited to inter-communal relations (conflict, coexistence, internal colonialism, and conversion) in the Ottoman Empire; Armenian, Kurdish, and Arab nationalisms in the late imperial era; the emergence of nation-state nationalisms and the persecution of the minorities in the new nation-states. Overall, the course aims to bring a historical approach to contemporary ethno-religious dynamics in the Muslim World