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Journal Review: Illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar, Vol. 2, Year 1 (Fall 2020)

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JOURNAL REVIEW

***Illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar*, Vol. 2, Year 1 (Fall 2020). Published by Al-Wasatiyya Center for Dialogue, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 290 pp. ISSN 2712-1321 (Print)/ISSN 2712-133X (Online).**

Reviewer: Paul Mojzes, professor emeritus of religious studies, Rosemont College (PA)

The second volume of this new bi-annual publication closely matches in quality and opulence the first issue which OPREE reviewed more extensively in No. 5 (July 2020). With this brief review we simply want to confirm the very positive assessment of this new Bosnian Muslim bi-lingual publication, which aims to present some of the most forward thinking of Bosnians and other Muslims, as well as other international and dialogically oriented intellectuals. Under the enlightened leadership of its editor-in-chief, retired Grand Mufti of the Bosniak Muslim community, Dr. Mustafa Cerić, the journal *Illuminatio* splendidly succeeds to implement its espoused aims to be “a journal of new ideas that enlighten the human spirit and mind about the condition of the human past, present, and future.” The journal aims to be a “cultural broker” of universal values with new ideas. Its sources are the most progressive ideas of Islam in its European context, while aiming to explore and, if suitable, to utilize other religious and secular insights. To those who might hold the view that contemporary Islam is a petrified version of a once radiant civilization one might offer *Illuminatio* to be convinced that indeed, there are streams of courageous and forward looking Muslims who have much to offer as well as receive inspiring appeals to “harmonize the heart, mind, and hand” as per the title of Dr. Cerić’s own article (pp. 127-160).

The issue contains a continuation of two scholarly articles from the first issue, Mehmed Akšamija’s article of what is Islamic art of *homo islamicus* and Ferid Muhić’s analysis of the relationship of the terms Bosnia and *Bošnjaštvo* (somewhat awkwardly translated as Bosnianness- a term distinguishing the culture of Bosnian Muslims in distinction from Bosnian Croats and Serbs). An issue of vital importance to the functioning of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a state is Mirsad Kriještorac’s argument for the necessity of revisions of the Dayton Agreement

that helped end the war of the 1990s but fails to assist the country in becoming a well administered state.

For those interested in religio-cultural traditions there is an ethnological reflection on the “gift of Qurbani meat” by Ugo Vlaisavljević. Prof. Stefan Jakob Wimmer of the University of Munich contributed an article “Religion in a Secular Society: Impediment or Benefit?” in which he counters the frequent charge by religionists that a secular society damages religious expression. He concludes that both religious and non-religious members of modern societies should work to live together rather than against each other. Prof. Leonard Swidler, a prominent American ecumenist from Temple University condenses his life’s perspective in an article entitled “Cosmic Dance of Dialogue” in which he stipulates that the dialogical approach corresponds to the very nature of the universe in which we live. And lastly there is a book review of Juan Cole’s *Muhammed: Prophet of Peace amid the Clash of Empires* by Mirnes Kovač who writes that Cole succeeds in evaluating Prophet Muhammed, neither in a defensive traditionalist way that most Muslim biographers tend to do nor the rationalistic, but selective, approaches of Western scholars.

Lastly, a comment on the packaging of these ideas. This reviewer is fluent both in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian as well as English (but not Arabic) and can attest to the first rate translations throughout the issue arranged in parallel column texts both in accuracy and effective communication. As in the first volume, the articles are enhanced with gorgeous reproductions of rare Islamic art and contemporary graphic presentations. Since *Illuminatio* is a periodic publication OPREE does not plan to continue its reviews but we recommend that our readers subscribe or otherwise gain access to it by writing to:

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