



Islamic Rule and the Preservation of Churches in the Holy Land

Izvor: <https://minbarlive.com/videos/some-historical-facts-about-islamic-rule-and-churches>

A historical account of how Muslim rulers of the Holy Land, including the Ottomans and Caliph Omar, maintained and preserved Christian holy sites such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, deliberately refraining from converting them to mosques and respecting Christian places of worship.

SAŽETAK

This talk examines the historical relationship between Muslim rulers and Christian sacred sites in the Holy Land across several centuries. The speaker documents how Muslim authorities, including the Ottomans, rebuilt the Church of the Holy Sepulchre multiple times, undertaking major renovations including roof repairs after fire damage—work of considerable scale given the building's enormous size and condition. During the Ottoman period, churches were not taxed and Muslim rulers actively funded reconstruction and maintenance efforts. The speaker highlights Caliph Omar's deliberate decision not to pray in a church when he took control of Jerusalem, a choice made to prevent Muslims from appropriating Christian places of worship and converting them into mosques. This reflects, according to the speaker, a principle rooted in religious teaching that Christians' places of worship should remain untouched. The speaker also reflects on their own learning process about this history, noting that awareness of these matters was limited before October 7th and that many people remain unfamiliar with how major world religions have historically treated each other's sacred sites.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

Muslim rulers of the Holy Land, including Islamic authorities and the Ottomans, rebuilt the Church of the Holy Sepulchre three times over centuries, including major renovations such as roof repairs after fire damage.

During the Ottoman period, Muslim rulers did not tax churches and actively funded the reconstruction and repair of Christian holy sites.

Caliph Omar deliberately chose not to pray in a church when he took control of Jerusalem to prevent Muslims from converting Christian places of worship into mosques.

The speaker presents this preservation of Christian sites as reflecting a religious principle that Christians' places of worship should not be touched or appropriated.

The speaker acknowledges their own limited awareness of this history before October 7th and notes that many people lack knowledge of how major faiths have historically treated each other's sacred sites.

CLANAK

Muslim Rulers and Church Maintenance

Muslim rulers of the Holy Land rebuilt the Church of the Holy Sepulchre three times over the centuries. Islamic authorities either completely rebuilt it or carried out major renovations. On one occasion, the church caught on fire and they redid the roof. Given the enormous size and decaying condition of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, this work represents a significant undertaking.

Ottoman Treatment of Christian Sites

During the Ottoman period, Muslim rulers did not tax churches, and they were actively involved in maintaining Christian holy sites. The Ottoman Turks, as Muslim rulers of the Holy Land, took care of these sacred places and funded their reconstruction and repair over the centuries.

Omar's Approach to Jerusalem

When Omar took control of the city of Jerusalem, he made a deliberate choice not to pray in a church. This decision was made so that Muslims would not take over these places of worship and convert them into mosques. This reflects a principle that Christians' places of worship should not be touched. According to the speaker, God commanded that you are not allowed to touch their places of worship, and anything that deviates from that is not Islam.

Context and Awareness

The speaker reflects on learning about Israel and Palestine for the first time, describing it as very confusing. This learning occurred after October 7th, and the speaker notes that before that time, they were not aware of these historical matters. The speaker also observes that there are many people who have never learned about the history of the world's largest faith and how its adherents treated other religions' sacred sites.

#Islamic history

#Church preservation

#Holy Land history

#Ottoman rule

#Christian-Muslim relations

#Religious tolerance

#Jerusalem

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