



John Møller Larsen

A Western Source of Islamism



Soundings in the Influence of
Alexis Carrel on Sayyid Qutb

CIR



Islam is undoubtedly the main source of Islamism, but it is not the only one. From the middle of the 19th century, Islamist ideology has been inspired by Western sources, too. Doctrines like scienticism, Marxism, Nazism and Third Worldism have influenced contemporary Islamist ideologues.

In this context, the French surgeon and biologist Alexis Carrel stands as a front figure who inspired not only Sunni Islamists like Sayyid Quṭb, but also Shi‘a Islamists in Iran.

That non-Islamic ideas have played an important role in the formulation of Islamism may appear unexpected. How could an anti-Western Muslim thinker like Sayyid Quṭb feel so ideologically related to a Western, pro-Nazi Nobel Prize winner?

The resolution of this enigma is the main issue of this book.

John Møller Larsen possesses a highly professional knowledge of the Arabic language and Islamic history. In addition, he is very familiar with Sayyid Quṭb’s life and ideas, Quṭb having been the subject of his PhD dissertation.

All these elements together render this book exceptional.

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