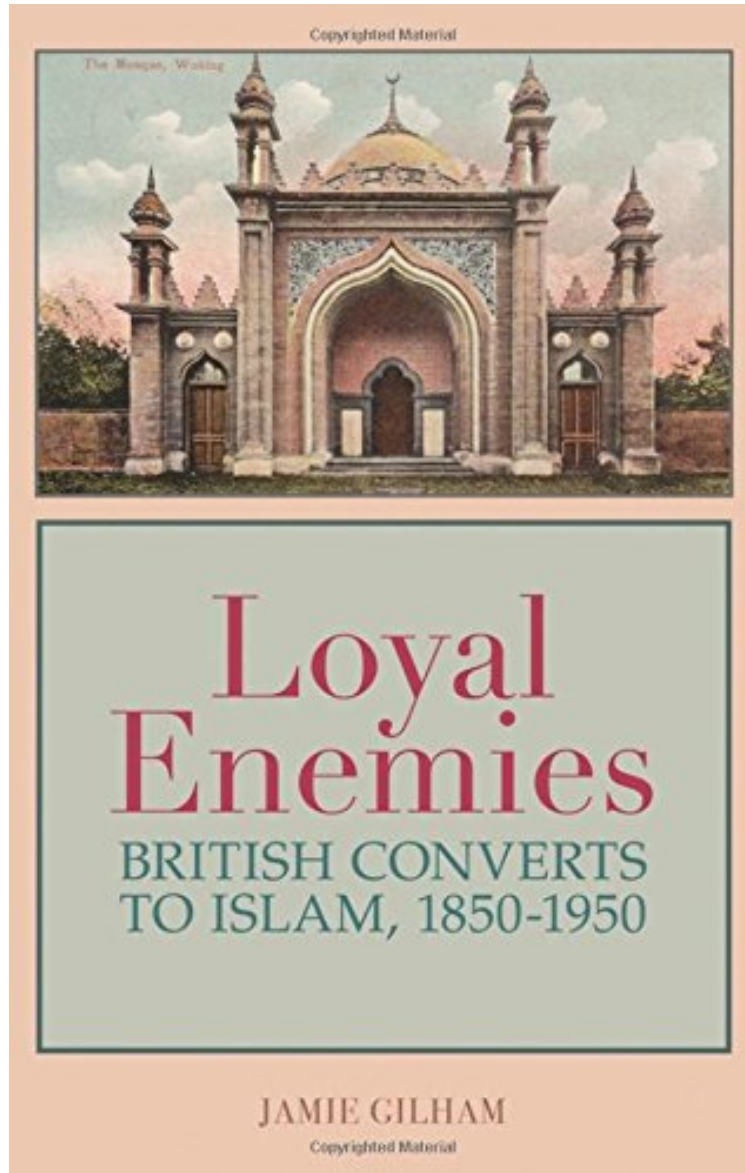


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## Loyal Enemies: British Converts to Islam 1850-1950

*Jamie Gilham*

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**Jamie Gilham : Loyal Enemies: British Converts to Islam 1850-1950** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Loyal Enemies: British Converts to Islam 1850-1950:

Loyal Enemies uncovers the history of the earliest British converts to Islam who lived their lives freely as Muslims on

British soil, from the 1850s to the 1950s. Drawing on original archival research, it reveals that people from across the range of social classes defied convention by choosing Islam in this period. Through a series of case studies of influential converts and pioneering Muslim communities, *Loyal Enemies* considers how the culture of Empire and imperialism influenced and affected their conversions and subsequent lives, before examining how they adapted and sustained their faith. Jamie Gilham shows that, although the overall number of converts was small, conversion to Islam aroused hostile reactions locally and nationally. He therefore also probes the roots of antipathy towards Islam and Muslims, identifies their manifestations and explores what conversion entailed socially and culturally. He also considers whether there was any substance to persistent allegations that converts had "divided" loyalties between the British Crown and a Muslim ruler, country or community. *Loyal Enemies* is a book about the past, but its core themes-- about faith and belief, identity, Empire, loyalties and discrimination-- are still salient today.

"*Loyal Enemies* is a carefully researched and fascinatingly detailed investigation of the British individuals who converted to Islam during the century-long territorial apogee of the British Empire. ... It is time to celebrate the pantheon of Anglo-Muslims to allow Muslims in contemporary Britain to feel part of an older indigenous tradition." -- Barnaby Rogerson, *Times Literary Supplement*"This is a well-researched and extraordinary account of British converts to Islam, ranging from my great-grandfather's elder brother Henry Stanley, first Muslim peer of the realm, to 'Harry' St John Philby, uncritical fan of Ibn Saud and Wahabism. They all swam resolutely against the tide of public opinion of their day." -- Lord Avebury, *Liberal Democrat Peer*"In this meticulously researched and pioneering study, Jamie Gilham brings to life the struggles of the courageous (and often eccentric) British individuals who converted to Islam during the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. Theirs was a difficult choice and the lives of these converts raise broad questions about integration and religious and national loyalties." -- Robert Irwin, Senior Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies, and author of *Memoirs of a Dervish: Sufis, Mystics and the Sixties*"This is an excellent text on the history of Muslim converts in the Victorian and Edwardian period up until the arrival of post-Second World War migrations, and appears at a time when young British Muslims are rediscovering or uncovering their shared history in the UK. Jamie Gilham's research is exemplary, shedding light on the motivations for conversion and the processes of situating Islam in a new European environment. *Loyal Enemies* should be required reading for anyone interested in the creation of a Muslim presence in the UK." -- Ron Geaves, Professor of Studies of Religions, Liverpool Hope University, and author of *Abdullah Quilliam: The Life and Times of a Victorian Muslim*"Gilham explores how from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century a small stream of Britons, in the face of public criticism, converted to Islam. They ranged from the aristocratic Lord Stanley of Alderley to the middle-class Abdullah Quilliam to the working-class wives of lascars in the port cities. It is a fascinating story which demonstrates how, before the large Muslim migrations of the 1950s, Islam already had firm roots in British society." -- Francis Robinson, Professor of the History of South Asia, Royal Holloway, University of London

About the Author Jamie Gilham is a historian whose research focuses on the modern history and politics of Islam and Muslims in Britain. He holds a PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London.