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## ABSTRACTS

## KING DAVID (ca. 1037–ca. 967 B.C.) AND DUKE WEN OF JIN (ca. 697–628 B.C.): TWO PARADIGMATIC RULERS FROM THE HEBREW DEUTERONOMISTIC AND EARLY CHINESE CONFUCIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

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The aim of this study is to compare the lives and works of two great rulers: King David from the Hebrew Bible and Duke Wen of Jin from the early Confucian historical work *Zuo zhuan* (*The Commentary of Zuo*) and point out the similarities and differences of these two examples of the oldest narrative histories in the world.

**Key words:** King David, Duke Wen of Jin, narrative history, sacred perspective, Deuteronomistic historiography, early Chinese Confucian historiography

## MOSES AS A LEADER TO MODERN CHINESE INTELLECTUALS: 1920s–1940s

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This paper will first discuss a number of changes that the Biblical image of Moses among Chinese intellectuals underwent between the 1920s and 1930s. Then it will demonstrate that in the 1930s Moses was regarded mainly as an ideal leader. Chinese intellectuals were also interested in the God of Moses in the 1930s and a discussion of this is included with an explanation regarding Moses's role as a religious leader. Finally, Moses's relevance to nationalism in the 1930s and 1940s is addressed. Through the discussion of Moses's changing image, the paper attempts to display how the Old Testament became a continuous and important source of inspiration to modern Chinese intellectuals in their fight for China's revival and national rebuilding.

**Key words:** Moses, leader, Chinese nationalism, modern Chinese intellectuals

## THE ASCENDANCY OF THE BATH IN SYRIA (1963 ó 1966)

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On 8 March 1963 a military coup by a coalition of *Ba'athist*, *Nāṣirist* and independent unionist officers brought down the secessionist regime in Damascus. When the army took over, it set up a National Revolutionary Council under the chairmanship of Lt-General Lu'ayy al-Atāsī which invited one of the leaders of the *Socialist Party of Arab Resurrection* (the *Ba'ath Party*) Ṣalāḥaddīn al-Bīṭār, to form a government of military and civilian ministers. One of the first actions of the new government was to issue a statement in which they declared that their aim was to lead Syria back to reunion with Egypt, this time in company with Iraq. At the same time General al-Atāsī declared that the army had been purged of secessionists, including former ministers. Shortly after, minority members in the Syrian officers' corps again increased strongly in numbers at the expense of the *Sunnites*. A principal reason for this was that the *Ba'athist* military leaders who were involved in the coup had called up numerous officers and non-commissioned officers with whom they were related through family, tribal or regional ties, to quickly consolidate their newly achieved power positions.

**Key words:** the Ba<sup>ʿ</sup>th Party; the army in politics, military coups, problem of Arab unity, sectarianism, minority problems

## A STRUCTURAL MODEL OF PRESTIGIOUS ORAL ARABIC

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Prestigious Oral Arabic, the substandard noncolloquial oral medium of the present-day Arab cultural elite, is an unstable linguistic entity with diffuse structural contours. The following inquiry aims at creating a tentative structural model of this emerging linguistic medium in terms of its deviation from the synthetic norm of Standard Arabic, and at defining its position in the recent system of diglossia.

**Key words:** diglossia, substandardness, noncolloquialness, oralness, cultural significance, synthetic norm of Standard Arabic, *iʿrāb*-less language, diglossic continuum, mono-/multifunctional indicators, structural/graphical limit

## IRAQ'S UNEASY ROAD INTO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS (1927 6 1930)

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Political life in Iraq during the mandate came to revolve around a tripartite balance of power. One part consisted of the king, a foreign monarch (from al-ʿĪj z) dependent on the British for his position but anxious to develop a more permanent power base among the local politicians. Another part comprised the British, always fearful of a rebellious parliament and anxious to see their supporters in office as prime ministers and ministers of the interior. To this end they continued to insist on substantial tribal representation in parliament. Between these two elements was a shifting group of Arab *sunni* politicians, some more anti-British than others, but all willing to assume office. Some were strong and capable personalities. Indeed, one feature of the period was political pluralism and sometimes intense competition for power at the top. Unused to political parties, the politicians formed parliamentary blocs, based mainly on personal ties and shifting political alliances. Few had roots in any large constituencies outside the halls of parliament, except for their links with tribal leaders. The failure to build broadly based political institutions or to reach out to groups beyond their personal or familial circles was a critical weakness of the nationalist movement. It allowed for manipulation by the British and the monarchy, and it prevented any one group from establishing sufficient power to move the country along in a particular direction. The politicians focused almost exclusively on the treaty, and failed to develop programmes on social issues, although economic issues came to be more important in the early 1930s.

**Key words:** British mandate; Anglo-Iraqi Treaties; internal balance of power; religious, sectarian and ethnic tensions; the Kurdish question

## ON THE CATEGORY OF ASPECT IN BENGALI

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Although in some languages the research of the category of aspect goes as far back as the end of 19th century,<sup>1</sup> for the new Indian languages this is a relatively new problem. Attention started to be paid to aspect only as late as in the middle of 20th century, and in this area up to now relatively little research has been done. This also applies for Bengali, where within investigating this verbal category several approaches have appeared. The aim of our article is to present a brief survey of the history of the research of aspect in Bengali as well as on the basis of existing findings and the analysis of Bengali texts to provide our own view of the means by which this semantic category is expressed in the Bengali language.

**Key words:** category of aspect, category of tense, perfectivity, imperfectivity, habituality, continuousness, perfectness, imperfectness

## RETHINKING THE SPREAD OF ISLAM IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

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The process of Islamic expansion up-country, away from the long Islamised towns of the East African coast, only began in the nineteenth-century. Islam advanced slowly and gradually along a network of caravan routes through trading contacts with some African peoples, spread by ordinary adherents, Kiswahili-speaking merchants, who penetrated the interior of Eastern Africa in search of ivory and slaves. Economic and trading interests and activities also played a role in the spread of Islam at the southernmost tip of the African continent. Many slaves and political prisoners sent to the Cape during the period 1652 to 1795 were Muslims. Even though the idea of a comparison between Eastern and Southern Africa may arouse contradictory reactions among students of Islam, an attempt will be made at an appraisal of similarities and differences in the spread of Islam, Islam's contribution to literacy, education and intellectual development, and challenges Islam had to face under colonialism.

**Key words:** Islam, origins, expansion, slave trade, slavery, colonialism, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, Islamic civilisation, Arabic script, language, education, literacy

## REVIEW ARTICLE

### MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS IN AFRICA REVISITED

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. HERBIG, G., 1896.