

This article is about the German American Mideast historian.
For other uses of Schwanitz, see [Schwanitz \(disambiguation\)](#).

Wolfgang G. Schwanitz



Wolfgang G. Schwanitz, 2008

Wolfgang Georg Schwanitz

Born	December 8, 1955 in Magdeburg, Germany
Residence	New Jersey, United States
Nationality	German
Alma mater	Leipzig University (Ph.D.), Free University of Berlin
Occupation	Arabist , Economist , Historian of the Middle East
AME Report	Transregional Studies on America-Mideast-Europe
Notable work	Islam in Europe , Revolts in the Middle East
Website	Comparative Transregional Studies & Trafoberlin
Twitter	@wolfggschwanitz
Scholar	Search Results
ORCID	List of Research & Publications

Wolfgang G. Schwanitz is a German-American Middle East **historian**. He is a specialist in **comparative and transregional studies** of modern **international relations** between the United States, the **Middle East**, and **Europe**. Schwanitz is known for his research on relations between **Arabs, Jews, and Germans**, and on the history of **American and German relations with the Middle East**.

Background

Born in 1955 in **Magdeburg**, Schwanitz lived for seven years in **Cairo, Egypt**, as his parents were **diplomats**. Back in **East Germany**, he attended the **Max Planck** high school of Berlin. In 1982 he finished five years of **Middle Eastern studies** as **Arabist/Economist** at **Leipzig University**. In 1985 he completed his Ph.D. at Leipzig, on Egypt's **open-door policy**, سياسة الإنفتاح الاقتصادي.

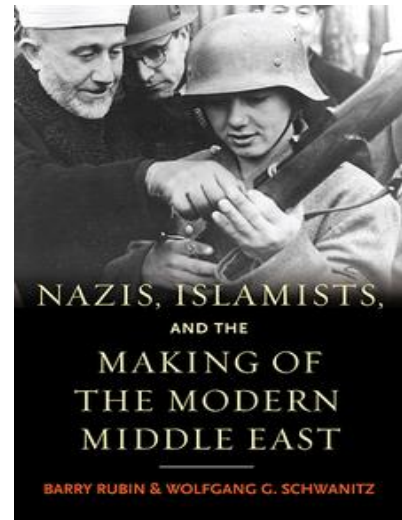
Career

In Berlin he headed the research group on Middle Eastern history at the **Academy of Sciences**. He has taught at **Humboldt University, University of Potsdam, and Free University of Berlin**. After **German reunification**, he worked (1990–95) at the Modern Orient Center — founded by the **Max Planck Society** of Munich — and published books on relations between Germany and the Middle East. In the 1990s he was visiting fellow at **CEDEJ, Cairo** (1992–93), at **Princeton University** (1995–97), and at the German-American Center for Visiting Scholars of the **German Historical Institute** in **Washington, D.C.** (1998). In Princeton NJ, he finished **two volumes** on the history of Germans in the Middle East after **World War II**.

In his history of the German Orient Bank he showed by records from American and German archives how Jewish gold looted by Nazis in occupied Europe was sold in **Turkey** via the **German Orient Bank**. This bank was founded in 1906 by **Dresdner Bank** in Berlin, the second-largest German bank, and served 40 years in the Middle East.

In 2000, he settled near **Princeton, United States**. He researches and teaches **Arabic, world history, and Middle Eastern history** at local colleges, among them **Burlington County College, now Rowan College, in Pemberton, New Jersey, and Rider University** in **Lawrenceville, New Jersey, (2004–08)**. He edits an AME **book series** of transregional studies on **America-Mideast-Europe**. He was visiting professor at the Rubin Center for Research in International Affairs at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, Israel (2007-17), and is (Hochberg Family, 2014-17) Writing Fellow (2018-20) at the **Middle East Forum** of **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**. In 2021, he became **Bernard Lewis Fellow** at the Middle East program of the **Foreign Policy Research Institute of Philadelphia**.

His works on German and American **Islam** policy were translated into eight languages. Schwanitz authored ten and edited ten books. He authored 90 book chapters on history and politics of the Middle East in **international relations** since 1798, as **modernity** came to the Middle East.

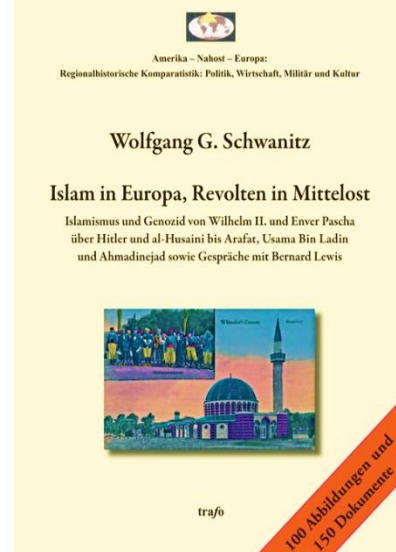


Selected bibliography

Books

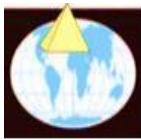
Islam in Europe, Revolts in the Mideast

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- [Middle East Mosaic 2015](#) Egypt's Change, Israel and Iran's Nuclear Deal, Islamic State Iraq-Syria and Barack H. Obama, Benjamin Netanjahu and Angela Merkel. Trafo Publisher Weist: Berlin [2017](#)
- [Middle East Mosaic 2014](#), Afghanistan's Vote, Israel's Missile War, Caliphate Iraq-Syria and Barack H. Obama, Pope Francis and Angela Merkel. Trafo Publisher Weist: Berlin [2016](#)
- [Middle East Mosaic 2013](#), Egypt's Revolt, Syria's Civil War, Iran's Nuclear Deal and Barack H. Obama, Abd al-Fattah as-Sisi and Angela Merkel. Trafo Publisher Weist: Berlin [2015](#)
- [Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Middle East](#), Yale University Press: New Haven & London 2014, with [Barry M Rubin](#) - also [Ebook](#), [Ebook](#)
 - Dutch: Nazi's, Islamisten en het moderne Midden-Oosten. [Uitgeverij de blauwe tijger](#): Groningen [2017](#)
 - Polish: Hitlerowcy, islamiści i narodziny nowożytnego Bliskiego Wschodu. [Visà-vis/Etiuda](#): Kraków [2014](#)
 - Hungarian: Nácik iszlamisták és a modern Közel-Kelet megteremtése. [Patmos Records](#): Budapest [2014](#)
- [Islam in Europe, Revolts in the Middle East](#). Islamism and Genocide from Wilhelm II and Enver Pasha via Hitler and al-Husaini to Arafat, Usama Bin Ladin and Ahmadinejad and talks with Bernard Lewis. Trafo Publisher Weist: Berlin [2013](#), [2014](#), 2nd ed.
- [Germany and the Middle East in the Cold War](#), University Publishers: Leipzig [2006](#), ed.
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- [125 Years of Suez Canal](#), Olms: Hildesheim [1998](#), ed.
- [Egypt and Germany in the 19th-20th Century](#) Dar ath-Thaqafa: Cairo [1998](#) with Wajih Atiq
- [Germans in the Mideast 1946-65](#), Haensel-Hohenhausen: Frankfurt [1998](#), 2 vols.
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- [Beyond of the Legends: Arabs, Jews, Germans](#), [Dietz](#): Berlin [1994](#), ed.
- [The G.D.R. and the Third World, 1949–90](#), Lit: Muenster [1993-95](#), 3 vols., co-ed.
- [Berlin-Cairo: Then and Today](#), German-Egyptian Society: Berlin [1991](#), ed.
- [Egypt's Open-Door Policy](#), سياسة الإنفتاح الإقتصادي. Dept. Afro-Asian Studies: [Leipzig](#) [1985](#)



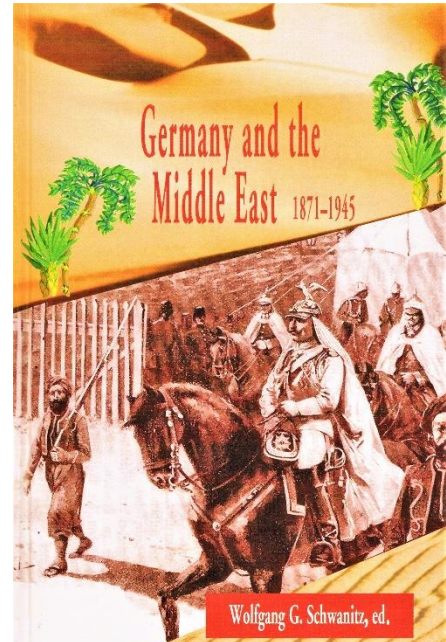
Audios and Videos with W.G. Schwanitz

- *Grand Mufti al-Husaini's Influence Abiding Impact*
- *Discover the East: Secrets of Oybin in Saxony*
- *Marshall Poe of New Books Network Audio on Nazis and Islamists in the Mideast*
- *Introduction to "Nazis, Islamists and the Making of the Modern Middle East"*
- *Turban and Swastika: Amin al-Husaini and the Nazis*
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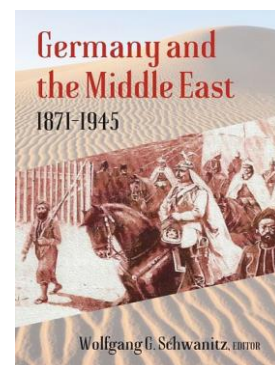
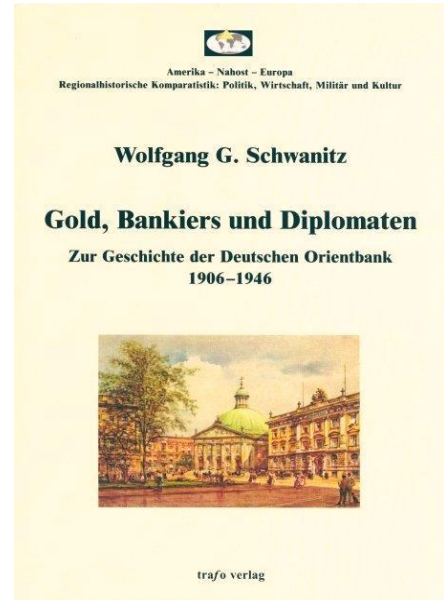


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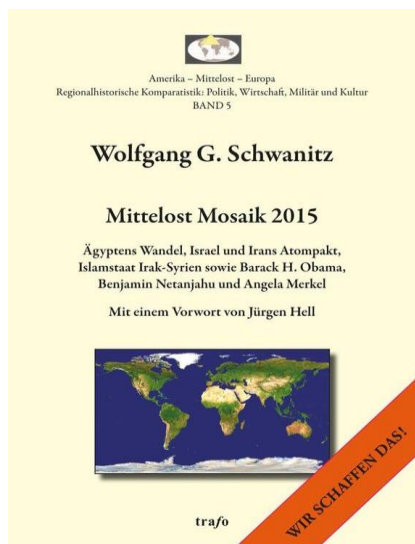
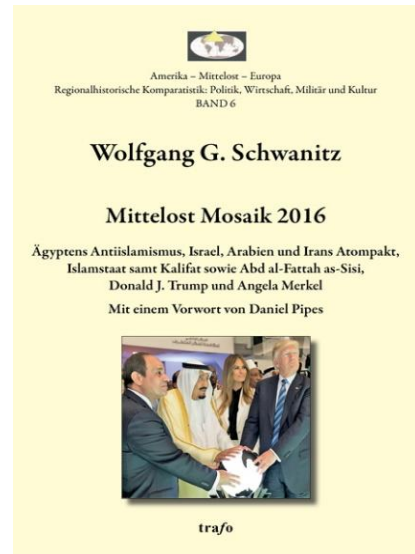
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