

ISLAMIC ENCOUNTERS

LECTURE SERIES

KAVEH HEMMAT

BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY

China had a specific significance in Islamic political imagination, shaped by the civic lore of the Silk Road. One description of China written in 1516 for the Ottoman court presented a bold political vision—a theory of bureaucracy, law, and sovereignty—which was based on keen awareness of Chinese political developments, and was articulated partly through citations of Sufi poetry. This text's use of Sufi poetry to articulate political theory warrants a reexamination of the abundant references to China in Persian religious and political literature since the 11th century.



REPOLITICIZING THE SILK ROAD: CHINA IN ISLAMIC POLITICAL THOUGHT & GEOGRAPHICAL IMAGINATION

JAN

8

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