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IN THIS ISSUE

The followers of a poor and illiterate herdsman named Mohammed founded the first great world empire the world had ever known. The Moslem Arabic Empire was a "universal State of majestic scope." As described by **Frederick L. Schuman** in his latest book, *The Commonwealth of Man* (reviewed in this issue):

"In the middle years of the eighth century this realm stretched from the Pyrenees to Transoecania and the Indus, and from the Caucasus and Taurus mountains to the Indian Ocean and the wastes of the Sahara. Peace, order, and the loving care of art and science were its earmarks . . ."

Subsequent schisms in Islam arose over the succession to the Caliphate. The Sunnites and Shiites supported rival claimants. Eventually, the Saracen Empire disintegrated. But Islam is still a force to be recognized in a world now dominated by a Christian minority.

In Russia alone, for example, there are more than 25 million Moslems. In "Moslems of the Soviet Union," **Wayne S. Vucinich** analyzes their possible significance as opponents of communism.

More than any other Western country, Spain is aware of the influence of the Moslems. In "Spain Turns to the Moslem World," former Assistant Professor of History at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, **John D. Harbron**, describes the efforts of the Franco government to establish closer ties with the nations of Islam as allies against communism.

In Southeast Asia, the Moslems are also influential. The "Instability in Indonesia," described by **Justus van der Kroef**, is due in part at least to an extremist Moslem group.

Also in this issue, we welcome **Masaharu Watanabe** to our pages. Assistant Professor at Yamaguchi National University in Japan, Mr. Watanabe is now a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Connecticut. The material in his article, "After the Japanese Occupation," was the basis for a public speech note delivered at Connecticut College on October 14, 1952. Co-author of the article is **Dr. Hugh H. Smythe**, now serving as a foreign professor of social science at Yamaguchi National University.

Another newcomer to *CURRENT HISTORY* is **David Bushnell**, Instructor of History at the University of Delaware, who writes about the weakening of democracy in Colombia. Also in this issue are articles by **Julian Towster**, **Frederick L. Schuman** and **Mary K. Hammond**—all authors well known to our readers.