

“Constantinople and the Byzantine World through the eyes of Arabs intellectuals”

ABSTRACT

Constantinople has been a pole of attraction to Arabs even before the rising of Islam. However, with the establishment of Islam as a new religion, it didn't cease to provoke the desire and imagination of Muslim Arabs. The Prophet Muhammad himself coveted, as it seems, the City, declaring his wishes in an encouraging *ÎadÐth*, promising through it signs of paradise to the general that would achieve its fall.

The medieval Arabic sources brim with mentions of the Constantinople, sometimes accurate and sometimes considered as illusion of the enchanted Arab writers.

Through this lecture the aim is to present a well-established image of Constantinople based on the medieval Arabic sources, so as to comprehend the different nuances that the Arab writers attributed to this magnificent city that permanently fed into their curiosity and moved them to explore it.

AUTHOR

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