

INSTITUTE OF OBJECTIVE STUDIES, NEW DELHI

CALL FOR PAPERS

for inclusion in the volume based on the proceedings of the two-day online
International Conference

On

**“Personality and Contribution of Muhammad Asad as an International Journalist,
Linguist, Political Theorist, Mufassir and Scholar of Religions in 20th Century”**

held on May 28-29, 2022

About the Conference

Muhammad Asad was born at the end of the nineteenth century, on 2nd July 1900, in Austria, in the home of a Jew Lawyer, Akiva Weiss. By choice he had opted to be a lawyer, though he was coming from a well-established lineage of Jewish Rabbis. Asad was named Leopold Weiss. He received traditional primary education and education in religion, studying textual versions of the religious scripts of *Talmud* and the related commentaries. As a gifted child of the family, Asad could master eloquence in Hebrew and Aramaic languages besides his own native German and Polish languages just at the age of 13, at the time when the First World War was to get in, in 1914, with senseless death knell to 6 millions of people and leaving many more millions in distress and devastation. At that human juncture of colossal loss of senses by misguided people in power pushing humanity into crisis, Asad left the school and joined Austrian Army without the knowledge of his family. He adopted a false name to cover the information of his joining army from his father, though he got back to join his family when the fact was disclosed.

Asad could stir up as the one of the most cogent youths with journalistic skills responding logically to unconvincing and demotivating social and political environment of Europe. He travelled and tread into the quest for his life which he himself was not knowing as to which shape that could take. While in Mandatory Palestine, which was a territorial arrangement made by occupiers between 1920 and 1948 in Palestine as per the resolutions of the League of Nations, he had his own reservations about the Zionist Movement and used to vehemently question its leaders, including Chaim Weizmann. He accepted Sunni Islam in 1926 (in Berlin); adopted the name "Muhammad Asad, retaining the roots of his earlier name as regards its meaning. He had observed:

"Islam appears to me like a perfect work of architecture. All its parts are harmoniously conceived to complement and support each other; nothing is superfluous and nothing lacking; and the result is a structure of absolute balance and solid composure."

Distinguished, as he is considered, he advocated *Ijtihad* and rationality in interpreting religious texts. With due concern he dedicated his works 'to people who think' so being best described as "Europe's gift to Islam" and "a mediator between Islam and the West". In 2008, the entrance square to the UN Office in Vienna was named *Muhammad Asad Platz* in commemoration of his work as a "religious bridge-builder". Vienna's cultural adviser, Andreas Mailath-Pokorny were present at the unveiling of the square. Mailath Pokorny, while talking to the media said:

"There is probably no more appropriate place to honor Muhammad Asad than that in front of the UN-City. Muhammad Asad was a citizen of the world, who was at home, and left his mark, everywhere in the world, especially in the Orient."

Towards the end of his life, Asad moved to Spain and lived there with his third wife, Pola Hamida Asad, an American national of Polish Catholic descent who had also converted to Islam, until his death on 20 February 1992 at the age of 91. He was buried in the Muslim cemetery of Granada in the former Moorish province of Andalusia, Spain.

In its furtherance of the programmes on International Personalities, the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi (India) in collaboration with the International Institute of Islamic Thought, USA, had organised a two-day International Conference on the **“Personality and Contribution of Muhammad Asad as an International Journalist, Linguist, Political Theorist, Mufassir and Scholar of Religions in 20th Century” on May 28-29, 2022 at New Delhi (India).**

Objective of the Conference:

The objective of the conference was to promote academic endeavours of understanding personalities, opinions and cultures across the globe for fostering a critical healthy international understanding in accordance with Article 51 of the Constitution of India and International Instruments like UN Charter.

Participation:

Academicians, scholars, administrators, social workers, policy makers, promoters of international cooperation etc., from all over the world participated in it.

Paper Publication:

Prospective authors are invited to contribute to and help shape the conference proceedings through submissions of their research abstracts (in 200 words) and subsequent full paper (in 4000-5000 words) based on the themes mentioned below. Also, high quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work of Muhammad Asad are welcome.

Themes for contributing papers:

- Socio-Political environment in Europe (especially Nazi Jurisdictions), Arab and other parts of the world during making days of Muhammad Asad and his emergence as a linguist, theorist and journalist with performance much beyond his home terrain.
- Influences on religious thought of Muhammad Asad and his conversion to Islam and his contribution to Islamic literature and understanding.
- Muhammad Asad's understanding of nuances of the geo-political scenario in his times across the globe with reference to transformation and resurrection of Muslim countries through World Wars.
- Muhammad Asad's responses to Western political thought and encounters to it from East.
- Relevance of Muhammad Asad as thinker, bureaucrat and diplomat to present day Globalising world.

Please take care of the important deadlines mentioned below:

Important dates:

Last date for submission of abstracts (in pdf & doc. file)	July 15, 2022
Last date for submission of full paper (in pdf & doc. file)	July 31, 2022

Note: Papers are subject to plagiarism up to the tune of 15% only.