

In Memoriam

Ralph Harry Magnus (1936-2000) died on 25 October, from heart transplant complications. He was educated as a political scientist at the University of California, Berkeley. He developed his specialties in Middle Eastern studies at an early stage. His masters thesis and dissertation, and his later writings, teaching, travels, and personal involvements were all dedicated to the countries and various aspects of the Middle East. He became well versed about several countries of the region and was versatile in his approaches to the study of political, economic and conflictual issues. Perhaps due to his early orientation, he chose to concentrate on and devote much of his work to Afghanistan. His introduction to the country came when he was at the US Information Agency (1961-65) and posted as the Assistant Cultural Affairs Attaché in Kabul between 1963 and 1965. For his dissertation he went back to Afghanistan as well as Iran to carry out field research in 1970.

Professor Magnes also wrote on many other countries of the region including Arab states such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Syria, Yemen as well as the Palestinians, and on Pakistan and Turkey. His writings appeared as articles, book chapters, and encyclopedic country studies. He also edited three books that included *Afghan Alternatives: Issues, Options and Policies* (1985). His last book (co-authored with Eden Naby), *Afghanistan: Mullah, Marx, and Mujahid* (1998), was a product of several years of research and insights on developments in Afghanistan, and was well received. It went into a second edition in 1999.

This work was timed to reflect the dynamics of events in Afghanistan with the expectation of a final victory by the Afghan people. It was clear that Ralph H. Magnus had developed a passion for this cause, and an extensive understanding of the historical events in the country. Three decades of research and writings, lectures, congressional testimonials, and consultant positions afforded him an understanding of the diversities and complexities of the Middle East that was both rare and refreshing. At a personal level, he was an active supporter of the war against Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

Professor Magnus's work and humanitarian contributions were recognized by many, including several organizations such as the Society of Afghan Doctors, Doctors Without Borders, and the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan. His efforts earned him executive directorship of the "Americares for Afghans," as a subset of the Americare. His work resulted in shipments of many tons of medical supplies for the Afghan refugees and mujahidin clinics. He visited Afghanistan briefly during the post-communist defeat in 1992. Like many observers of the long costly war he was much disappointed at the struggle that followed among the former mujahidin leaders for personal power. In private talks about the ongoing crises in Afghanistan he discussed the nature of the implicit mandate the Afghan people had given to the Taliban, which, as summarized in his 1998 book, was intended "to end the warlordism of the ex-communists and ex-mujahidin alike in order to restore the unity of the country under an Islamic government" (p. 188).

In his passing, discussions of the issues surrounding Afghanistan lost a source of sound reasoning. The cause of the Afghan people also lost a friend. He will be remembered well as a caring and humanitarian person and will be missed by those who knew him.

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On 24 September 1999, Ottoman studies lost one of its most respected and productive figures, as **Robert Mantran**, aged eighty-two, passed away in Aix-en-Provence, France. Robert Mantran was born on 19 December 1918, in Paris. His studies at the Sorbonne and at the École des Langues Orientales put him in contact with prominent scholars such

as Jean Denis and Nikita Eliséeff. He then took classes at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (today's EHESS) from Jean Sauvaget. The war brought a significant break in his life as he joined the French army in 1939, and the Resistance after the defeat of 1940. In August 1944, Robert Mantran was among the Resistants participating in the liberation of Paris. He then left for Damascus where, together with Nikita Eliséeff, he conducted epigraphic research under the supervision of Jean Sauvaget. After a brief stay in Beirut, he moved on to Istanbul, where he became a *pensionnaire* of the French Archeological Institute, and taught from 1947 to 1952 at the Galatasaray high school. His long stay in Istanbul was an occasion for intensive research in the libraries and archives of the city, in view of the preparation of a history of Istanbul in the seventeenth century. He was recruited by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in 1952, and in 1955 was invited to Tunis in order to work on the publication of an inventory of local collections of Ottoman documents.

After some years of teaching at the University of Tunis, Robert Mantran returned to France in 1961 and set up the framework of a center for Arab, Ottoman, and Turkish studies at the University of Aix-en-Provence. He obtained his PhD (*doctorat d'état*) in 1963. Under his energetic leadership and thanks to his friendship with historians such as Fernand Braudel, Georges Duby, and Ömer Lûtfî Barkan, Aix-en-Provence soon developed into one of the major intellectual centers of research and scholarship on the Mediterranean, Arab, Ottoman, and Turkish worlds. He also was a founding or active member of a number of research centers and scientific journals (Centre de Recherches sur l'Afrique Méditerranéenne, Institut d'Études Méditerranéennes, Institut de Recherches et d'Études sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman, *Revue de l'Occident Musulman et de la Méditerranée*, *Revue du Monde Musulman et de la Méditerranée*, and so forth). A visiting professor at the University of Mexico and UCLA, Robert Mantran became professor emeritus following his retirement in 1985. In 1990 he was elected member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. His major publications include: *Règlements fiscaux ottomans* (1951, in collaboration with J. Sauvaget), *Histoire de la Turquie* (1952), *Turquie* (1955), *Trésors de la Turquie* (1959, in collaboration with M. de Saint-Pierre), *Inventaire des documents d'archives turcs du Dar el-Bey* (1961), *Istanbul dans la seconde moitié du XVII^e siècle* (1962), *La vie quotidienne à Constantinople au temps de Soliman le Magnifique* (1965, 1990), *Les régimes politiques des pays arabes*, (1968, in collaboration with Maurice Flory), *L'Eurasie, XI^e-XIII^e siècles* (1982, in collaboration with G. Duby), *L'expansion musulmane (VII^e-IX^e siècles)* (1986), *Histoire de l'Empire ottoman* (1989), *Les grandes dates de l'islam* (1990), and *Histoire d'Istanbul* (1996).

As a former student of Robert Mantran, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to this great man, whose knowledge and erudition, combined with an extraordinary modesty and kindness I will always remember with the greatest emotion and respect.*

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Constantine Zurayk, an internationally acclaimed Arab intellectual who inspired the Arab national movement, died in Beirut on 12 August 2000 at the age of 91. Born in Damascus on 18 April 1909, Zurayk received his B.A. from the American University of Beirut (AUB), his M.A. from the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. Except for a short period (1945-47) when he served as minister of Syria in Washington, DC and Syrian delegate to the United Nations, Zurayk spent his professional life in aca-

* My most sincere thanks to Professor André Raymond, friend and colleague of Robert Mantran, who has been kind enough to provide me with the information on Robert Mantran's career which will appear in his obituary in the *Revue du Monde Musulman et de la Méditerranée*, pp. 89-90.