

XIII

ISLAM UNDER PAGAN RULE

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THE use of the word "pagan" in the subject under discussion is not altogether a happy one, for it is intended that such governments as those of China and Japan should come within our survey, and the application of the adjective "pagan" to these countries is resented by many. Rather what is meant to be discussed is, The attitude towards Islam and Christianity of governments which are neither Moslem nor Christian. And even the revised phrasing of the subject involves us in difficulties, for the question may be fairly raised, Which are the Christian governments? Some will go so far as to say that there are no really Christian governments, but only Western governments; that these are only nominally Christian; and that the spirit, the policies and the agencies of the best of these are marked by so much that is contrary to the genius of Christianity that the right is forfeited to designate them as Christian.

Passing by these more superficial and technical difficulties, a very real difficulty occurs in trying to mark off distinctly the limits of this discussion. We are dealing here with *governmental* attitudes. In the West where the line of separation between religion and government, between Church and state, is drawn so sharply, the distinction may be maintained. But in the pagan world, especially the pagan world of Africa, governmental questions are usually religious questions and the religious attitude generally carries with it a governmental attitude.