Islam in the North-Western Caucasus

Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkessia, Adyghea

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Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/cemoti/1533>

DOI : 10.4000/cemoti.1533

ISSN : 1777-5396

Éditeur

AFEMOTI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 20 février 2006

ISSN : 0764-9878

Référence électronique

Galina YEMELIANOVA, « Islam in the North-Western Caucasus », *Cahiers d'études sur la Méditerranée orientale et le monde turco-iranien* [En ligne], 38 | 2006, mis en ligne le 13 février 2006, consulté le 08 septembre 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/cemoti/1533> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/cemoti.1533>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 8 septembre 2020.

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RÉSUMÉS

Since 11 September 2001 Islam and Islamic fundamentalism, in particular, have been at the centre of media, academic and political debate in the West, the Islamic East and in the post-communist Eurasia. This debate, however, has been dominated by a decontextualized approach portraying Islamic radicalism as a homeless global force, disconnected from real people, places and histories. In reality, it has numerous regional and ethnic forms that are rooted in particular local cultural contexts, traditions, ways of life, and political and social structures. This article seeks to explore one such distinctive Muslim community represented by the Muslims of the north-western Caucasus which is administratively divided between Russia's Muslim autonomous republics of Kabardino-Balkariia, Karachaevo-Cherkessiia and Adyghea.