

# The Recovery of the Muslims' Past and the Others

*Islamic Perspective of History*

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the Others  
Islamic Perspective of History

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# CHAPTER 3

## ISLAM IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN: SPREAD, HISTORY AND ISSUES

Fauziah Fathil

Situated in the extreme east of the world and far from the centre of Islam, Japan had a very minimal contact with Islamic faith. It was not until the last decades of the nineteenth century that a real and substantial contact was made following an increasing interest shown by the Osmanlis in establishing links with Japan. Since then, Islam and Muslim community in Japan grew, but at a very slow pace compared to some countries in the East and West which came into contact with Islam. This is demonstrated in the very small number of Muslim people in the country, which until currently is less than one percent of the total population of Japan. This study is focusing mainly on the history of the coming of Islam, the spread of Islam and challenges or problems facing the Muslims in Japan. With regard to the early contacts between Islam and Japan, various theories and views will be pointed out. The spread of Islam will then be discussed giving out means and ways as to how Islam began to get real foothold in Japan. Finally, the paper attempts to address issues and problems encountered by Islam and Muslim community in Japan and how the problems are dealt with. While some of the issues and problems are less complicated and will likely subside, some others are real and require concerted efforts from various parties and take a long time before real solutions can be achieved.

**Keywords: Japan, Islam, Muslims, history, issues, problems**

Very little is known about the history of Islam in Japan and what is more, the little available information is either scattered or inconclusive. Until now, different accounts, figures and information are given with regard to the history of Islam in the country.