

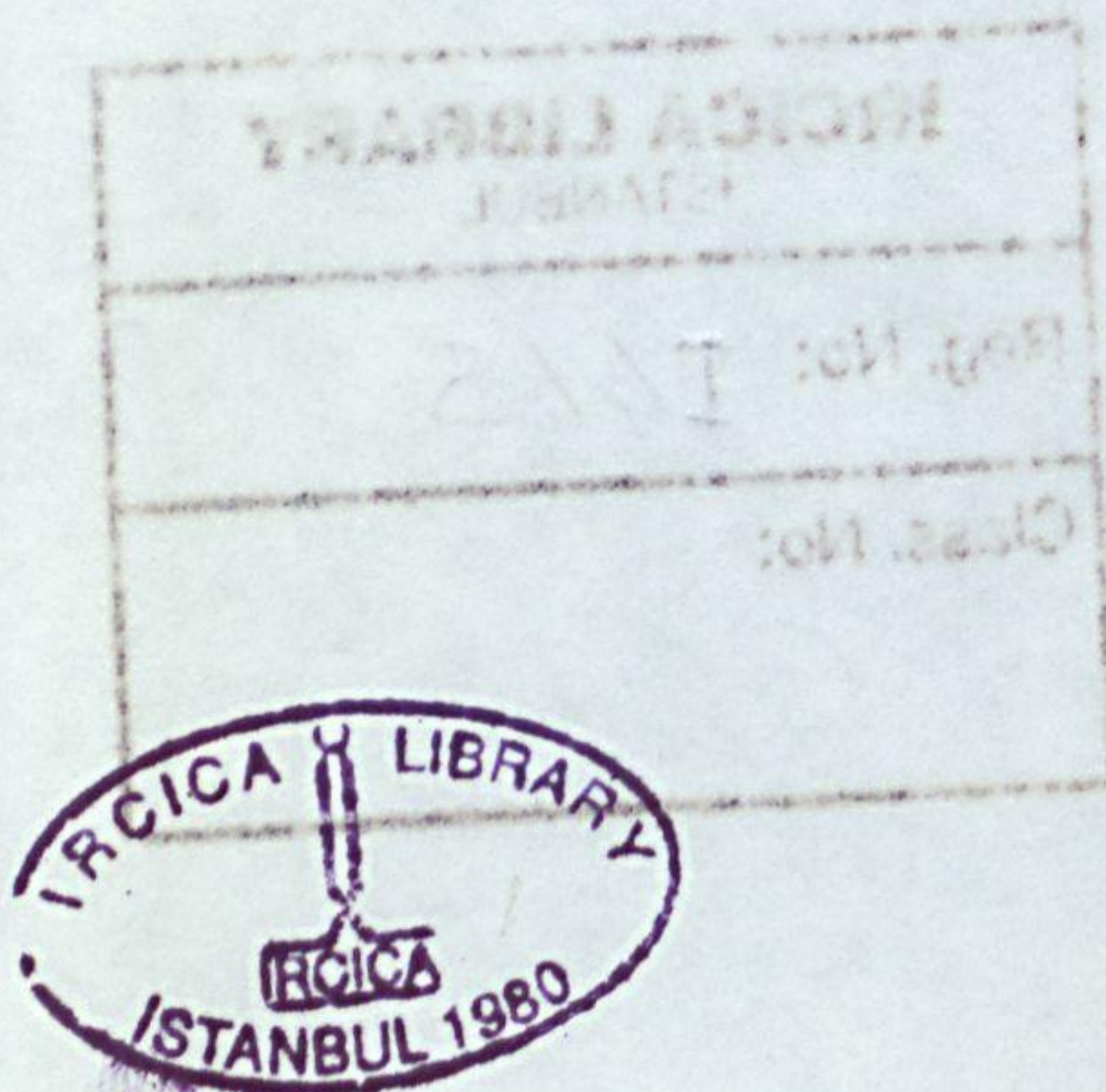
## Dr. Murad Wilfried Hofmann

Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Ambassador (ret.) of Germany and specialist in Islamic culture, was born in 1931 in Aschaffenburg, Germany, where he spent WW II, experiencing strategic bombing and military occupation. His university education began in 1950 at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., where he majored in sociology and economics. In 1957, he completed his studies of German Law at Munich University with his bar exam and a doctorate in jurisprudence on "Contempt of Court by Publications under American and German Law". Following an assistant professorship in civil procedure, he pursued his studies of American law at Harvard Law School, leading to an M.A. degree in 1960.

From 1961-1994, M. W. Hofmann served in the German Foreign Service, beginning his career in war-torn Algeria and, later, specialising on issues of defense and nuclear deterrence. His last assignments were: Director of NATO and Defense Affairs in Bonn (1979-83); Director of Information for NATO at Brussels (1983-87); Ambassador to Algeria (1987-1990); Ambassador to Morocco (1994).

In 1980, Mr. Hofmann embraced Islam, performing the first one of seven *umrahs* in 1982 and *hajj* in 1992. In 1985 he published his *Diary of a German Muslim* (3rd German ed. 1998), also available in English, French and Arabic (*Al-Ahram*). When, in 1992, his second book, *Islam: The Alternative*, was announced, Mr. Hofmann was viciously attacked as a "fundamentalist" by media and leftist feminists in Germany. This book is available in English, American, Albanian, Bosnian, and several Arabic versions. Amana Publications also published his next books *Islam 2000* (1996), *Journey to Makkah* (1998) and *Islam in the 3rd Millenium* (2000). His most recent publications, in 2001, were "Islam", "Koran" (German only) and "Colonized Minds" (Arabic only). An important work of his was his re-editing, in 1998, of a translation of the Qur'an into German, based on a 1901 version by Max Henning.

M. W. Hofmann is a regular contributor to *The Muslim World Book Review and Encounters* in the U.K., *Islamic Studies* in Pakistan, *Islamische Zeitung* in Germany, and *The American Journal for Islamic Social Studies*. He is also a member of the Royal Al-Albait Academy of Jordan and the 1998 recipient of the Islamic Outreach Award from the Islamic Information Service in Los Angeles. Dr. Hofmann regularly lectures and attends congresses on Islamic studies throughout the world.



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