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# The *Hajj* as its Own Undoing: Infrastructure and Integration on the Muslim Journey to Mecca

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With the spread of steam travel through the Middle East and Asia from the 1850s, the world's largest Muslim population zones rapidly came into closer contact than ever before. Yet the geography of this new transport

infrastructure — the hard networks that bound steam hubs together — also intensified Muslim contact with non-Muslim peoples and places. And as the industrial transport revolution enabled a massive growth in travel among all classes of Muslims, no journey was more expanded and transformed than the oldest Islamic journey of all: the *hajj* .

By drawing on pilgrim diaries in several languages, this essay explores the nature of that transformation by demonstrating how the *hajj* became, paradoxically, a journey through an increasingly non-Muslim world, in both concrete and conceptual terms. To show the multiple dimensions of this process by which industrialized travel transformed the *hajj* as...

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