Muhammad Asad

**Muhammad Asad** (pronounced [[ˈmoʊ̯hämæd ˈæsæd]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/Hindi_and_Urdu) ([listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a6/Muhammad_Asad_Name_Pronunciation.ogg)), [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): محمد أسد‎ /muħammad ʔasad/, [Urdu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urdu_language): محمد أسد‎, born **Leopold Weiss**; 2 July 1900[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-:0-18) – 20 February 1992[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-19)[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-20)) was an [Austro-Hungarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary)-born Muslim journalist, traveler, writer, [linguist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics)[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)], [political theorist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_theorists), diplomat and [Islamic scholar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Islamic_studies_scholars).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-saudiaramcoworld.com-6) Asad was one of the most influential [European Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Muslims) of the 20th century.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-i-epistemology.net-21)

By age 13, Weiss had acquired a passing fluency in [Hebrew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language) and [Aramaic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic_language), on top of his [native](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_language) German and [Polish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_language) languages.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-haaretz.com-23) By his mid-twenties, he could read and write in English, French, [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language) and [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language).[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-FOOTNOTERoad49-24)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-FOOTNOTERoad54-25)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBanda-e-Sehrai123-26)[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-FOOTNOTERoad105-27) In [Mandatory Palestine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Palestine), Weiss engaged in arguments with [Zionist leaders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Zionists) like [Chaim Weizmann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaim_Weizmann%22%20%5Co%20%22Chaim%20Weizmann), voicing his reservations about some aspects of the [Zionist Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-haaretz.com-23) After traveling across the [Arab World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_World) as a journalist, he converted to [Sunni Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Islam) in 1926 and adopted the name "Muhammad Asad"—[Asad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asad%22%20%5Co%20%22Asad) being the Arabic rendition of his root name [Leo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_%28given_name%29) (Lion).[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-tribune.com.pk-28)

During his stay in [Saudi Arabia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia), he spent time with [Bedouins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedouins) and enjoyed the close company of the state's founder, [Ibn Saud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Saud%22%20%5Co%20%22Ibn%20Saud) On his visit to [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Subcontinent), Asad became friends with Muslim poet-philosopher [Muhammad Iqbal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Iqbal), who persuaded him to abandon his eastward travels and "help elucidate the intellectual premises of the future [Islamic state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_state)".[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-allamaiqbal.com-29)[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-criterion-quarterly.com-30) He also spent five years in [internment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment) by the [British Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj) at the outbreak of [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-islamicencyclopedia.org-3) On [14 August](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_%28Pakistan%29) 1947, Asad received [Pakistani citizenship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistani_nationality_law) and later served at several [bureaucratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureaucracy) and diplomatic positions including the Director of Department of Islamic Reconstruction, Deputy Secretary (Middle East Division) in the [Foreign Ministry of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_%28Pakistan%29), and Pakistan's Envoy to the United Nations.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-renaissance.com.pk-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-martinkramer.org-10)[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Asad#cite_note-allamaiqbal.com-29)