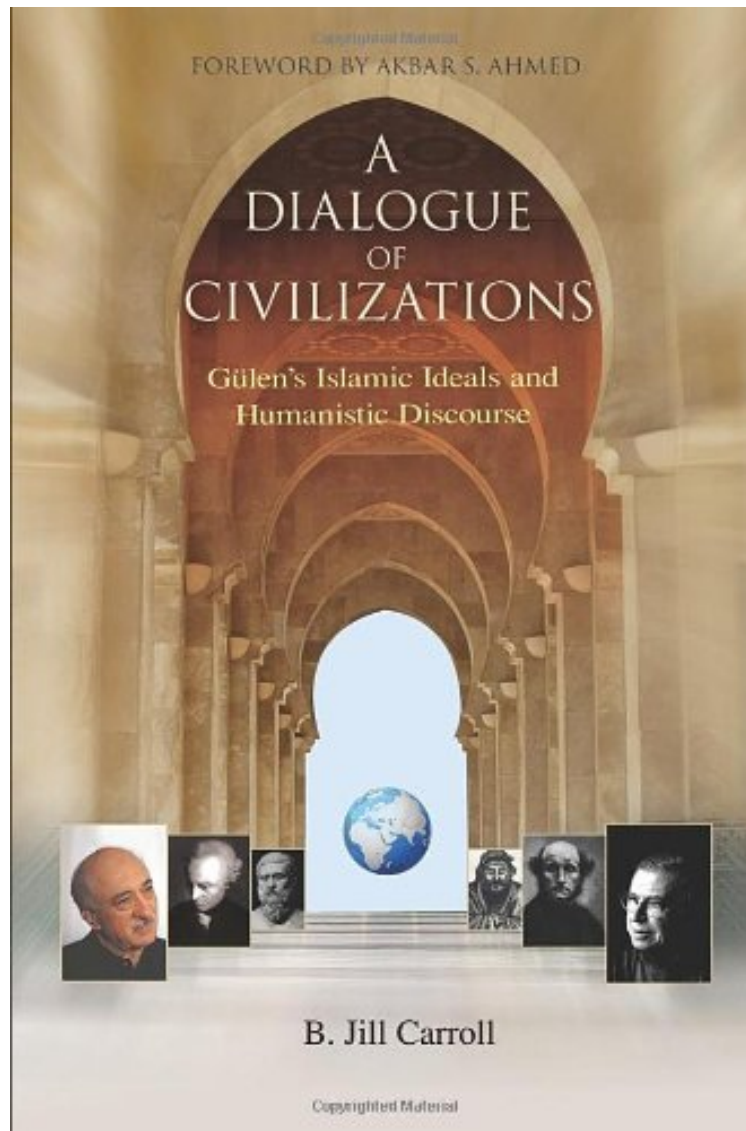


(Download ebook) A Dialogue of Civilizations

A Dialogue of Civilizations

Jill Carroll

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Jill Carroll : A Dialogue of Civilizations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dialogue of Civilizations:

64 of 66 people found the following review helpful. Pleasantly surprisingBy Michael SummersThe author finds resonances among the views of a prominent Turkish Muslim scholar and those of Confucius, Plato, Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, and Jean Paul Sartre on crucial themes such as inherent human value, moral dignity, freedom, education and responsibility. It is amazing to see those resonances among these significant figures who are seperated

by oceans or continents in space and centuries in time. The author must especially be commended for her bringing into dialogue of a 20th century atheist French philosopher (Sartre) and a contemporary, very devout Muslim thinker on the issue of responsibility. A must read for those who do not buy into the thesis (prescription?) of the clash of civilizations. The foreword by Prof. Akbar Ahmed is a gem by itself. 15 of 17 people found the following review helpful. some insider info By Joseph Clay, Ph.D. I am glad I waited until tonight to write the review: Dr Carroll spoke at Stanford, and I had the opportunity to listen to her answers to various questions regarding the book, as well as some general background about how, when and why the book was written. In a nutshell, the book compares the ideas of Gulen, a Turkish Muslim intellectual and scholar, with ideas of famous philosophers on various subjects, such as education, ideal human being, and responsibility. It is a thin book, about 100 pages, and Dr. Carroll tried to make it accessible to the public by cutting out in-depth academic hair-splitting. She also does not assume familiarity with the works of any philosophers mentioned therein. But do not be fooled, this is not a book you can read in a single session. I often had to stop and contemplate, and digest all the information I read, especially since I was not a social science major. So, it took me a while to finish. Overall, an interesting read. In her own words, she chose to write on Gulen because she thinks the schools and other activities/projects of the people in Gulen movement can play a crucial role in promoting peaceful coexistence of people from different backgrounds. The book is not an antithesis of the famous "clash of civilizations": she personally thinks the clash is possible, even probable, but not inevitable. The only way to avoid it, she asserts, is to value each other simply because we are human. That is why she demonstrates in her book how ideas of philosophers of vastly different backgrounds resonate with each other. We are all human, and we can certainly find a lot of things we agree on. This is not to overlook our differences, but rather acknowledging and welcoming the differences as a reality of life. We need to learn with each other. One of the most intriguing chapters is the chapter on responsibility, where Dr. Carroll compares the ideas of Gulen on responsibility with Sartre, famous French existentialist philosopher, who is also an atheist. Despite doubts of the publishers, she insisted the chapter stays, to illustrate even a deeply devoted Muslim like Gulen and an atheist like Sartre can find certain things to agree on. I applaud Dr. Carroll for her efforts to promote "dialogue among civilizations" in a world that appears to get crazier every day. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By John Great

Fethullah Glen is a Turkish intellectual, scholar, and activist whose influence over a new Islamic intellectual, social, and spiritual revival is revealed in this insightful book. Readers will gain a fuller understanding of where Glen stands on issues of inherent human value and dignity, freedom of thought, education and taking responsibility for creating society and the world. In addition, readers will also see how different perspectives across time, geography, and worldview can still find points on which to engage in dialogue and find a deep resonance.

Writer Carroll states in the introduction that prior to a trip she made late in 2004 she was unaware that the organizers of the Institute for Interfaith Dialog based in Houston, Texas as well as the organizers of the trip itself were members of a community of people inspired by the notions of Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish Islamic scholar. Reading further we find Carroll's intent in this book is to 'place the ideas of Fethullah Gulen into the context of the larger humanities. Chapter titles are 1: Gulen and Kant on Inherent Human Value and Moral Dignity, 2: Gulen and Mill on Freedom, 3: Gulen, Confucius, and Plato on the Human Ideal, 4: Gulen, Confucius, and Plato on Education, 5: Gulen and Sartre on Responsibility. Kant's belief was that humans have inherent value, Gulen spoke of the transcendent value of human beings. Mills' assertions that the tyranny of the majority must be met head long was presented from his viewpoint of the nineteenth century Briton. Gulen avows that 'freedom allows people to do whatever they want, provided they do not harm others and they remain wholly devoted to the truth.' A Dialogue of Civilizations: Gulen's Islamic Ideals and Humanistic Discourse presents the query 'what is the level of resonance between Islam and the West?' That the twenty-first century has become an episode of heretofore unnoticed quandary is obvious. Up until 9-1-1 few worldwide really gave much thought to anything other than their own viewpoint. Writer Carroll finds significance can be gleaned an awareness of the theoretically divergent views of Gulen, Turkish Muslim scholar and those of Immanuel Kant, Confucius, Plato, John Stuart Mill, and Jean Paul Sartre regarding critical hypothesis including intrinsic ethical pride, creature significance, learning, autonomy, and accountability. The reader may be surprised to find out these figures who are separated by centuries in time, as well as oceans or continents have a propensity toward speaking the same language. Writer Carroll's attentive writing style has produced a judicious and timely work, she is knowledgeable, presents her thesis in readable manner and holds reader interest. Not for everyone, if you are looking for a lighthearted, 'story' book for a quick afternoon read A Dialogue of Civilizations: Gulen's Islamic Ideals and Humanistic Discourse is not that book. If you would like to learn a little more about Gulen and his notions of education and dialog then A Dialogue of Civilizations: Gulen's Islamic Ideals and Humanistic Discourse will prove an eye-opening read. Educational read, happy to recommend for those who are hoping to learn something of an interesting thesis. -- Midwest Book From the Back Cover This book is magnificently successful in demonstrating the compatibility of Western humanistic and the religious Islamic dialogue of Fethullah Gulen without removing from the sight the divine inspiration of the latter's thinking. In a Western world emotionally held intellectual hostage by "The War on Terror"

and its assumption of Islamic culpability, it cuts to the contrary heart of the matter. The reader is left with the conclusion that Islam and the West are two civilizations whose core ideas can be the subject of a mutually informing intellectual dialogue." --Louis Cantori University of Maryland "I particularly enjoyed Dr. Carroll's inclusion of Gulen's thoughts on human beings "possessing value higher even than angels" - thoughts also developed in the writings of the Apostle Paul and Saint Gregory Palamas. This book will be of great benefit in acknowledging the common dignity of all human beings." --Rev. Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles "In this brilliant and timely book Dr. Jill Carroll describes effectively not only the need for dialogue, she also shows us the critical way forward. In the spirit of Rumi Dr. Jill Carroll invites all to come to the table to discuss the truth about ourselves and our world." -- David B. Capes Houston Baptist University "I feel quite comfortable recommending this book to others. It has sent me back to the writings of F. Gulen himself so that I may take in his message of peace and love." --Richard Penaskovic, Auburn University

About the Author B. Jill Carroll is a recognized expert on issues of religious tolerance, philosophy of religion, American religion, and religion in public life. She lives in Houston, TX.