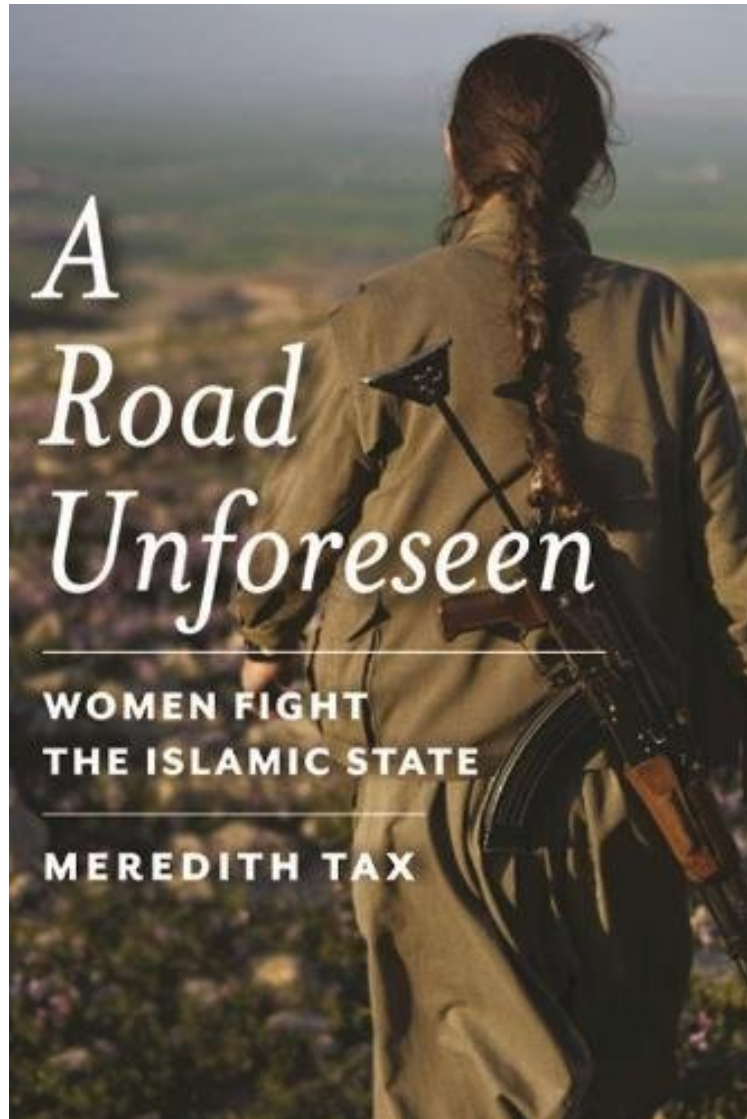


[Mobile book] A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State

A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State

Meredith Tax

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Meredith Tax : A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an amazing book with so many up to date knowledge about ...By ruken buket isikThis is an amazing book with so many up to date knowledge about the Kurdish Women's Movement. It is beautifully written with a lot of references that would be helpful for scholars as well. If you want to learn about Kurds and their problems in the countries they live under in the Middle East you should definitely need

this book, it will give you more than an idea! 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Complete History of the Kurds. By Nick and Lauren I originally learned of the Kurdish female military from a BBC special. They fascinated me. So when this book presented itself, I eagerly requested to read it. I was disappointed. But I'll get to why in a moment. First, the parts of Taxes writing that are excellent. This is a thoroughly researched history of the Kurds, starting with their origins and ending with the events that took place in the summer of 2016. With exquisite detail, she takes the reader through the intricate and delicate tides of the Middle East, the constant betrayals, the shifting alliances, the war, the death, and the meddling by outside forces. Tax clearly has an analytical mind and a passion to see the story of the Kurds told to the world. Here is why it was disappointing: for a book about women fighting the Islamic State, there is so little about these brave women. Tax includes minute vignettes about women who resisted, women who engaged in the politics, and women in the military hierarchy and political counsels, and pays particular attention to the Rojava, a governmental system created and run by an egalitarian mix of men and women. But large tracts of the book deal nothing with them, but rattle on about the men and nations surrounding them. The book includes limited information about how they function in the military, their life, journeys, training, and families but no details. Perhaps because there is so little out there plausible because there is little about women's experience in general but even less about women in the Middle East, and of Middle Eastern women, the Kurds are some of the least represented and least contacted group in the region. But to have so little about women in a book dedicated to that subject is misleading. One of the main complaints about history books is how they leave out the female contribution. While Tax's book is not a history of the Kurdish female military, it is a complete history of the Kurds, because it includes the female experience. This is a complete experience. This book should not advertise itself as a book about women in the Kurdish military but as a current history on the plight of the Kurds. If I were going to teach a class on the condition of the Kurdish people, this is text I would choose. But not for a class on women in the Kurdish nation it simply doesn't focus on them enough to qualify. Note: I received this book free through LibraryThing's Early Reviewer Program in exchange for my fair and honest opinion. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review: A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State By Streeds Reads FTC NOTICE: Free Review Copy from Library Thing Early Reviewers Program (in exchange for an honest review) REVIEW: The year 1989 is notable for a great worldwide upsurge of fundamentalism (25). A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State, by Meredith Tax, details an internationally-political and economically-driven set of events, that have culminated in a religious, cultural, gender-based situation allowing for the formation of the patriarchal belt (24). Activities increased for the following reasons, according to the author: removal of Soviet state control, causing of nationalist and religious identity movements; and, globalization with its capitalist forms of organization and notions of individual liberty wrongly defined as Western penetrated to the most remote areas, bringing their values and media to threaten traditional male elites, who reacted violently (25). Factors that contributed since that time involved destabilization of the region, seductions of Western media and the freedom offered by the Internet, and success of the global women's movement. Its legal achievements peaked at UN conferences in the early nineties, setting off alarm bells and traditionalist enclaves from the Vatican to Saudi Arabia (25-26). The alarm bells rang decades after a seemingly infinite series of events sparked when the Sykes-Picot Treaty and other pacts carved up Kurdistan amongst the winning, dominant world powers. This book detailed Kurdistan's history and the United States rush to fill a gap as soon as the Cold War ended selectively continuing to fight communism by aligning with Turkey, utilizing Israel as America's proxy and conveniently finding the PKK/Kurds as being equal to the same communists previously fought, while ignoring differentiating aspects. Meredith Tax adeptly presented, and compellingly supported, her positions in what I viewed as the following themes: *Revolutionary Strategies: ISIS, ISIL, Daesh* Ethnic Identity and Genocide* Tribalism and Sultanism* Totalitarian Theocracy* Globalization* Oil Politics* UN Sanctions: Challenges and Manipulations* Systemic Violence and Homicides Against Women* Hyperbolic Focus on Female Virginity* Conflict Zone Governments: Big Government vs Local Councils vs Small Communes* Jihadist Heavenly Rewards Program: A Sliding Scale* Manipulation of Western Audiences* Democratization of Iraq: A New Radical-Islamic, Anti-Female State* Recruitment Efforts and Profiling The reader must wonder if the aforementioned themes developed because the Kurds lived in an area resting on oil. Iraqi Kurdistan has huge oil and gas reserves, as many as 55 billion barrels of oil, a quarter of the reserves in the whole country. Thirty-nine different oil companies from nineteen countries moved in (98). It looked like a power-grab, regardless of the multi-faceted costs to the tribes and overall states; and, without regard to its ripple effect worldwide. A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State, by Meredith Tax, revealed itself to be a surprisingly-thorough, well-organized and compelling read. It should be recognized as a primer on Kurdistan and Daesh, while highlighting the challenges and accomplishments of a unique group of females that continued to fight against an internationally-misunderstood conflict with escalating, global implications. The book's Glossary of Organizational Names (13), map, and photos greatly contributed to ease of reading and understanding of its contents, easily garnering the compendium a five-star rating and a spot on my Favorites list.

This is the book I've been waiting for only it's richer, deeper, and more intriguing than I could have imagined. A Road Unforeseen is a major contribution to our understanding of feminism and Islam, of women and the world, and gives

me fresh hope for change. Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed* and *Living With a Wild God*In war-torn northern Syria, a democratic society based on secularism, ethnic inclusiveness, and gender equality has won significant victories against the Islamic State, or Daesh, with women on the front lines as fierce warriors and leaders. *A Road Unforeseen* recounts the dramatic, underreported history of the Rojava Kurds, whose all-women militia was instrumental in the perilous mountaintop rescue of tens of thousands of civilians besieged in Iraq. Up to that point, the Islamic State had seemed invincible. Yet these women helped vanquish them, bringing the first half of the refugees to safety within twenty-four hours. Who are the revolutionary women of Rojava and what lessons can we learn from their heroic story? How does their political philosophy differ from that of Iraqi Kurdistan, the Islamic State, and Turkey? And will the politics of the twenty-first century be shaped by the opposition between these political models? Meredith Tax is a writer and political activist. Author, most recently, of *Double Bind: The Muslim Right, the Anglo-American Left, and Universal Human Rights*, she was founding president of *Womens WORLD*, a global free speech network of feminist writers, and cofounder of the PEN American Centers *Womens Committee* and the *International PEN Women Writers Committee*. She is currently international board chair of the *Centre for Secular Space* and lives in New York.

Swift, intense and forensic. . . . [Tax] brings the habit optimism of the will and pessimism of the intellect to [*A Road Unforeseen*]. The journey takes her deep to the history of Middle East and the fate of Kurds [where] now [women] are improvising a new model of living in an enclave that is not an ethnic state but a confederation of half a dozen ethnicities, organizing co-operative economy in an egalitarian borderland called Rojava. Meredith Tax wonders whether they can survive. But she is inspired. And reading her book, you will be, too. *openDemocracy* 50.50 Exceptional. . . . Not only informative but heart-wrenching. . . . It is the analysis that situates what is otherwise described as a struggle against terrorism or a struggle for national freedom as a more complicated struggle for the emancipation of women, and thereby the emancipation of society, that gripped me as a reader and activist. *AlterNet* With her combined expertise on fundamentalism, feminism, and human rights, Tax . . . shows what it means to view aspects of the Middle East through these basic prisms. . . . [*A Road Unforeseen*] is a welcome addition to the growing literature in English on the Kurds and will be mined for its perspectives and insights for years to come. Any movement for real transformation, she insists, must make the demands of women central. This superb book will be an essential resource for this question in the years to come. *ROAR Magazine* A book of revelations about life during wartime in Rojava. . . . *A Road Unforeseen* celebrates those women who are ripping the guts out of ISIS and explains how they came to be at the center of the Kurdish struggle for freedom. *First of the Month* [*A Road Unforeseen*] is an on-the-fly intervention in an ongoing conflict. It smoothly shows many things at once, and [Tax] does a commendable job in creating a concise and readable account of this tangled situation. *Toward Freedom* Thorough and well-documented. . . . Readers interested in geopolitical issues and history will no doubt be grateful for [Tax's] lucid explanation of events involving countries like Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran and for illuminating the plight of the Kurdish people in the Middle East. *New York Journal of Books* Zeroes in on a contemporary example of unanticipated moxie: The successful, if little-known, resistance to Muslim fundamentalism that has developed along the Syrian-Turkish border. *Lilith* Tax approaches the Syrian conflict from a unique perspective as she focuses on the role of Kurdish women combatants. . . . Extensively researched, this is an immensely relevant primer on a complex people whose past and future are critical to the success of peace in their region. *Booklist* An important look at an unfolding situation little understood in the West. *Publishers Weekly* Impressively well researched, written, organized and presented, *A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State* is a seminal study. . . . Consistently compelling, informed and informative, *A Road Unforeseen* is very highly recommended. *Midwest Book We in the West* are so unused to thinking of Middle Eastern and Muslim women as liberated, let alone as feminist revolutionaries, that Meredith Tax's remarkable book, *A Road Unforeseen*, comes as a welcome correction. By tracing the historical and political evolution of a group of Kurdish feminist guerrillas, Tax shows us what revolution looks like with feminism at its center, even in the midst of the repressive and violent attacks on women and Kurds in Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. This powerful and persuasive book is a must-read for anyone who takes the plight of women seriously. *Helen Benedict*, author of *The Lonely Soldier* and *Sand Queen* An indefatigable political thinker and activist takes us on a forensic journey into the gendering of geopolitical conflict and resistance. *Beatrix Campbell*, author of *Diana, Princess of Wales: How Sexual Politics Shook the Monarchy* and *End of Equality: The Only Way Is Womens Liberation* This is the book I've been waiting for only its richer, deeper, and more intriguing than I could have imagined. *A Road Unforeseen* is a major contribution to our understanding of feminism and Islam, of women and the world, and gives me fresh hope for change. *Barbara Ehrenreich*, author of *Nickel and Dimed* and *Living With a Wild God* This book lifts the lid on one of the best-kept secrets of our times, the birth of a revolution in the Middle East driven by gender equality and direct democracy. Meredith Tax makes a well-researched, cogent, and passionate case for why we should all get behind this experiment, at once fragile and gutsy, in Rojava, northern Syria, and Turkey. *Rahila Gupta*, author of *Provoked* and *Enslaved* *A Road Unforeseen* is essential reading to understand the extraordinary democratic revolution led by the Kurds in Syria. This is compelling history but also a clarion call to the US and the international community to support this fragile project that elevates and celebrates human rights, democracy, and equality for all

genders, races, and religions. Carne Ross, author of *Independent Diplomat* and *The Leaderless Revolution* At last we have a book that tells us what we crave to know each day as we open the newspaper to read about IS, Islamists, shifting alliances, enslaved women, fleeing immigrants, and shocking cruelties. Meredith Tax shows us how the Kurds of Rojava are trying to put in place a system of equality between men and women and take local, democratic control of their lives, which would be remarkable anywhere, let alone in a war zone. As Tax so clearly demonstrates here, putting women at the center of a struggle for freedom changes everything. Its time to learn about the extraordinary Rojava and the hope it offers that another world is possible. Ann Snitow, author of *The Feminism of Uncertainty* Meredith Tax tells the tangled and amazing history of Kurdish politics from family feuds to terrorism to radical democracy and feminism with just the right mixture of admiration and concern. Michael Walzer, author of *Just and Unjust Wars* and *The Paradox of Liberation*