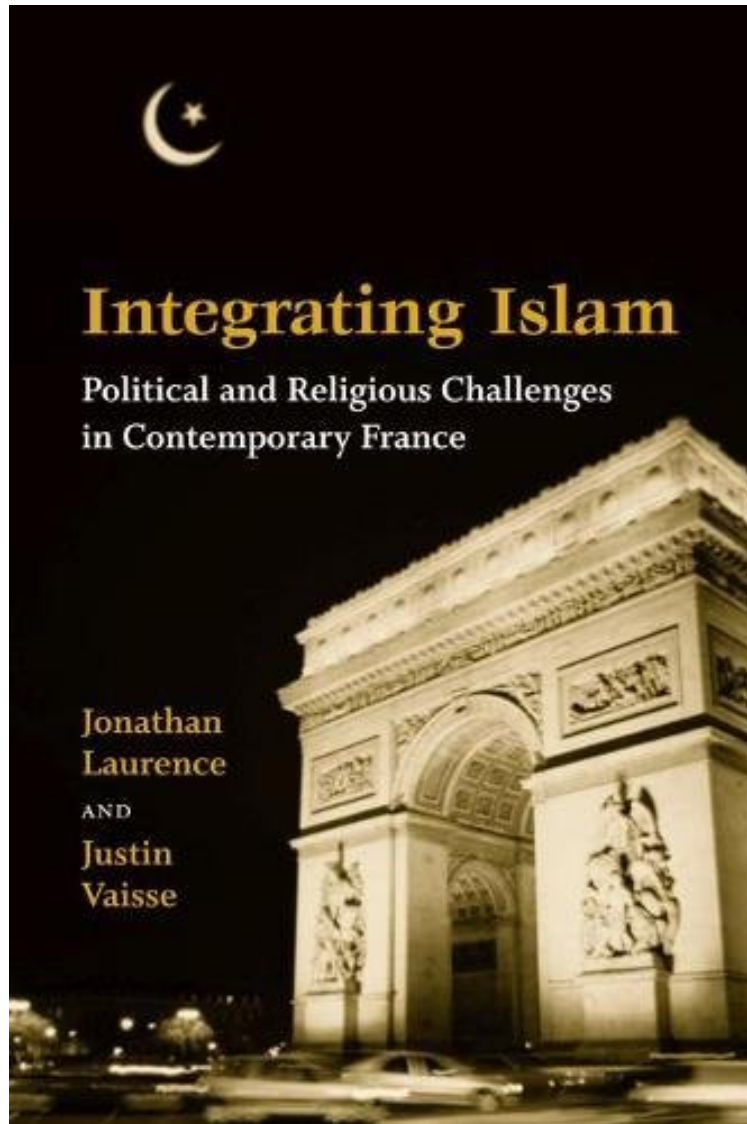


Integrating Islam: Political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France

Jonathan Laurence, Justin Vasse
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Jonathan Laurence, Justin Vasse : Integrating Islam: Political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Integrating Islam: Political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A book to be grateful for By K. Donow Laurence and Vasse have written a very sane set of analyses of Islam in France. The book is rigorously based on solid data and well conceived

historical research. They also support their work with interviews with important participants in the processes they describe. Absolutely every one interested in the integration of Islam into Europe would do well to read this fine work. Now I want to reserve the reviewer's prerogatives of a side note. The first part of the book presents of French Muslims based on survey research and an analysis of secondary material compiled by the governments of France and the US. The body of the work is largely attuned to the evolution of French institutions, both of the government and of the Muslim communities. Now someone needs to find a way to apply the same rigour and rationality to the problem placing the subaltern populations of the banlieu in the framework of French life a bit more fully than I believe is now possible. That will be another book written in another day. Whatever it looks like, it will surely build on the base established here by Laurence and Vaisse.¹ of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Read By Tracy Main This book should be required reading to juxtapose all the fear-based claims that Islamic immigration is endangering the West. It is based on solid research almost to a fault in that it stays away from making many predictions. Unfortunately, this book is not nearly as well-read as those serving up fear (based on the lack of reviews here). Very insightful book!

Nearly five million Muslims call France home, the vast majority from former French colonies in North Africa. While France has successfully integrated waves of immigrants in the past, this new influx poses a new variety of challenges much as it does in neighboring European countries. Alarmists view the growing role of Muslims in French society as a form of "reverse colonization"; they believe Muslim political and religious networks seek to undermine European rule of law or that fundamentalists are creating a society entirely separate from the mainstream. *Integrating Islam* portrays the more complex reality of integration's successes and failures in French politics and society. From intermarriage rates to economic indicators, the authors paint a comprehensive portrait of Muslims in France. Using original research, they devote special attention to the policies developed by successive French governments to encourage integration and discourage extremism. Because of the size of its Muslim population and its universalistic definition of citizenship, France is an especially good test case for the encounter of Islam and the West. Despite serious and sometimes spectacular problems, the authors see a "French Islam" slowly replacing "Islam in France" in other words, the emergence of a religion and a culture that feels at home in, and is largely at peace with, its host society. *Integrating Islam* provides readers with a comprehensive view of the state of Muslim integration into French society that cannot be found anywhere else. It is essential reading for students of French politics and those studying the interaction of Islam and the West, as well as the general public.

"The successes and failures of cultural integration [are] given an authoritative and optimistic reading in *Integrating Islam*... Laurence and Vaisse give us a carefully conducted study of the integration of Muslims into French society... bringing change to the French population as well as to immigrants." -- *New York of Books* "A well-documented, nuanced, and ultimately optimistic study of French Muslims -- a convincing refutation of clichs about the rise of Islamism in France, the effects of Muslims on French foreign policy, European anti-Semitism, and the incompatibility of Islam and the traditional French model of integration" -- *Foreign Affairs*