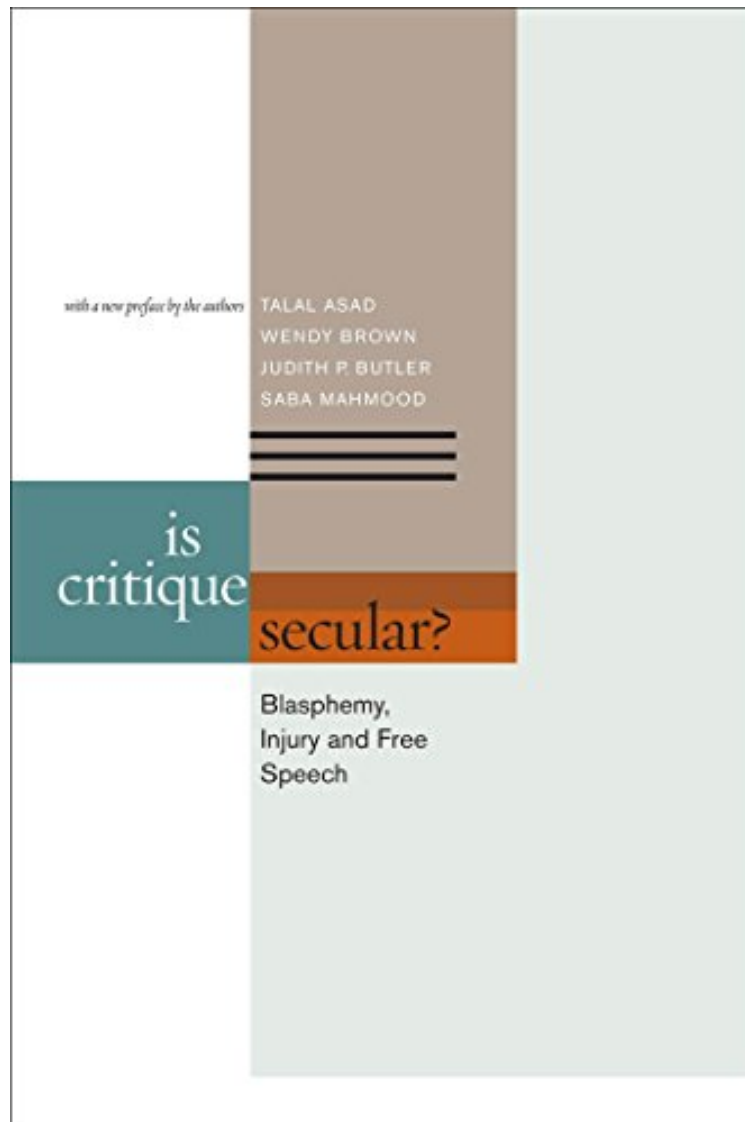


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Is Critique Secular?: Blasphemy, Injury, and Free Speech

Talal Asad, Wendy Brown, Judith Butler, Saba Mahmood

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Talal Asad, Wendy Brown, Judith Butler, Saba Mahmood : Is Critique Secular?: Blasphemy, Injury, and Free Speech before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Is Critique Secular?: Blasphemy, Injury, and Free Speech:

This volume interrogates settled ways of thinking about the seemingly interminable conflict between religious and

secular values in our world today. What are the assumptions and resources internal to secular conceptions of critique that help or hinder our understanding of one of the most pressing conflicts of our times? Taking as their point of departure the question of whether critique belongs exclusively to forms of liberal democracy that define themselves in opposition to religion, these authors consider the case of the Danish cartoon controversy of 2005. They offer accounts of reading, understanding, and critique for offering a way to rethink conventional oppositions between free speech and religious belief, judgment and violence, reason and prejudice, rationality and embodied life. The book, first published in 2009, has been updated for the present edition with a new Preface by the authors.

This conversation among Asad, Brown, Butler, and Mahmood offers an important snapshot of the rich debates on post-secularism and critiques of secularism. These essays provide succinct and accessible discussions of key issues in these debates. (Annika Thiem Villanova University) This original and provocative book is an invitation to go beyond political niceties and engage issues of religious difference with candor. Both scholarly and engaging, the book uplifts the level of public debate on the entanglement of religious and secular reasoning in the making of modern publics. (Veena Das Johns Hopkins University) I can't imagine a set of more rigorous, humane and insightful interlocutors on this vital aspect of the public sphere. (Jonathan Boyarin University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) About the Author Talal Asad was born in Saudi Arabia and educated in Britain. He now teaches anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.