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Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World

Fatema Mernissi

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ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY




FEAR OF THE MODERN WORLD




WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR



FATEMA MERNISSI
TRANSLATED BY MARY JO LAKELAND

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Fatema Mernissi : Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World:

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. For those seeking an academic/social perspectiveBy Elaine ArchambeauFatima Mernissi has provides an interesting, academic and social perspective of Islam and it's fear of democracy; while providing yet a solid argument for the need for Islam to embrace democracy. She persuasively argues that the positive aspects and practice of Islam would flourish if the people of Islam were to choose their faith, rather than out of ignorace or fear. The positive aspects would provide no threat to other cultures and religions, as that

is true Islam. With myself being of the west, Mernissi gave me my first insights into my own stereotyping and misunderstanding of Islam that many in the West both believe in and sometimes act on. She is provocative to all who read her, whether one is Arabic, Middle Eastern, European or American. Her scholarly and simultaneously interesting work is also a must for women who are either Islamic or those who are not. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, straightforward, great book By Eliot Dodd I have three of Mernissi's books and they are all definitely worth the money and the time reading. Mernissi is one of the most insightful and eye-opening authors on female social issues in Islam. I used all three of her books for a college term paper and she helped me get a great grade! These books also stand the test of time I find them to be interesting every time I go back to them. Two thumbs up! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Zinath Read for Seminary class great resource

Is Islam compatible with democracy? Must fundamentalism win out in the Middle East, or will democracy ever be possible? In this now-classic book, Islamic sociologist Fatima Mernissi explores the ways in which progressive Muslims--defenders of democracy, feminists, and others trying to resist fundamentalism--must use the same sacred texts as Muslims who use them for violent ends, to prove different views. Updated with a new introduction by the author written in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, *Islam and Democracy* serves as a guide to the players moving the pieces on the rather grim Muslim chessboard. It shines new light on the people behind today's terrorist acts and raises provocative questions about the possibilities for democracy and human rights in the Islamic world. Essential reading for anyone interested in the politics of the Middle East today, *Islam and Democracy* is as timely now as it was upon its initial, celebrated publication.

From Publishers Weekly In this deeply textured philosophical analysis, Mernissi (*The Veil and the Male Elite*), a sociologist in Morocco, argues cogently that Islam has been perverted by Arab leaders who want to deny their people democracy. Mixing personal experience, Arab history, Koranic analysis and cultural references, Mernissi explores Arab fear of the West, the rise of the "media imam," the process by which the concept of freedom "has been tainted with sin" and the loopholes that allow Arab states to be seated in the United Nations without adhering to all its principles. Arab masses sided with Saddam Hussein, she states, mostly due to their anger against the wealthy leaders of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. She argues that the Gulf war, as well as the growth of Arab feminism, will spark demilitarization and democracy. However, Mernissi, a self-described "incurable optimist," offers little hard political analysis and does not examine what precisely the masses mean when they call for democracy. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French About the Author Fatema Mernissi teaches sociology at University Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco. She is the author of more than eight books, including *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*, *Scheherazade Goes West*, *The Veil and the Male Elite*, and *Beyond the Veil*.