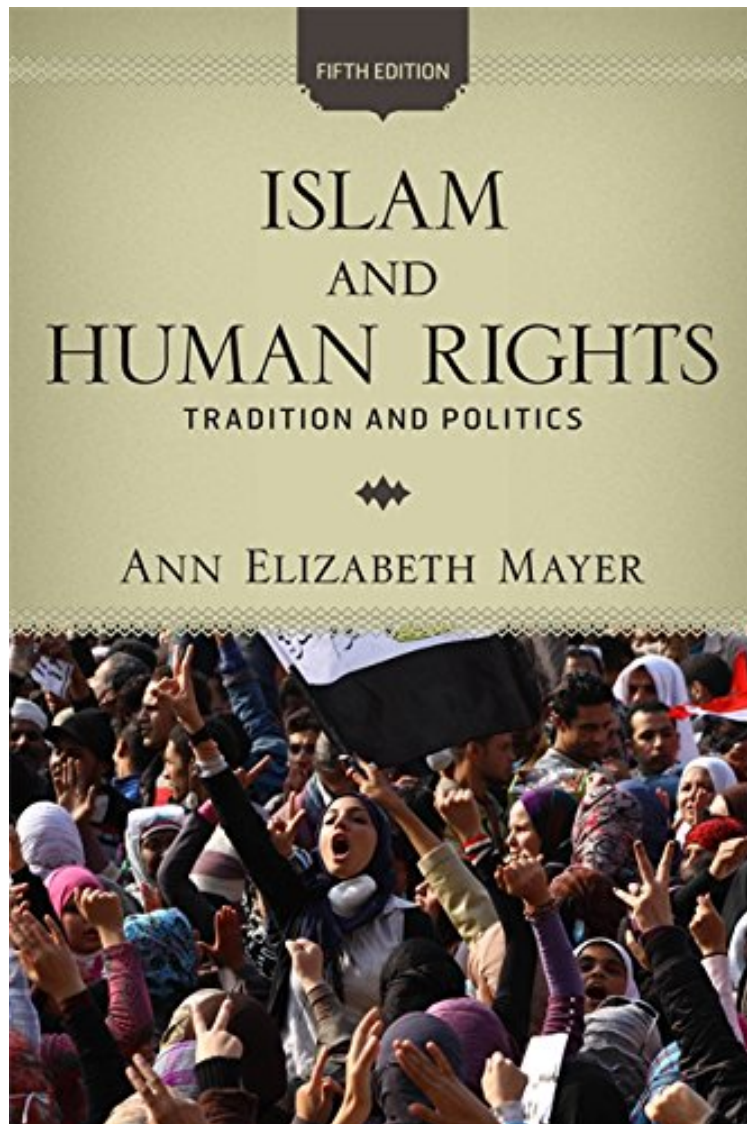


(Ebook free) Islam and Human Rights: Tradition and Politics

## Islam and Human Rights: Tradition and Politics

*Ann Elizabeth Mayer*

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**Ann Elizabeth Mayer : Islam and Human Rights: Tradition and Politics** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam and Human Rights: Tradition and Politics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An unexpected captivating bookBy CustomerI came to Ann Mayers book knowing little about human rights schemes other than a bit about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) I read a long time ago. In my navet I thought UDHR was it; something universal for all (and all means all).To the Islamic world the UDHR seems to be largely a Western construct and is not applicable to it (in name perhaps but

not in practice). For solving this tension there is the UIDHR (Universal Islamic Declaration of Human Rights) generated decades after the UDHR. The UIDHR is adhered to by Muslim-majority states (57) belonging to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The UIDHR is a parallel world for human rights; so much for the claimed universality of the UDHR now facing a counter claim. The eye-opening book by Ann Mayer is not only about the OIC, UIDHR or UDHR but covers several national Islamic human right schemes expressed in constitutions or similar of Islamic nations. It makes for fascinating reading. Mayer shows the divergent and sometimes tangential position Islam occupies in human rights aspects relative to (or normative in) the UDHR. This despite UIDHR in language is skilfully modelled after the UDHR. Mayer points out conflicts between meanings in UIDHRs Arabic language articles and their official English translations. Full equivalency is not achieved, confusion reigns. Deliberate? Who knows. When reading Mayers captivating and analytical book (not a herculean task) the reader becomes aware that from a Muslim perspective Sharia is human rights, thus Quran-determined. Also, there are formidable Muslim thinkers and tacticians where it concerns arriving at human rights constructs that suit Islam. Mayer gives credit where it is due and acknowledges the input by Muslims in drafting the UDHR as we know it and hints at the difficulty or struggle they must have experienced in staying true to their faith when in the end going along with the draft UDHR. Mayers book may be at times dry but contains riveting sections. I thoroughly appreciated reading her exposition (in human rights setting) of the Salman Rushdie situation following his publication of The Satanic Verses. The book is likely written for human rights specialists or students of human rights in academia (the tone of the book is academia no hype) but the serious general reader of political Islam will learn much. I now appreciate that to Muslims, criticisms of them by the West solely raised on a UDHR diet do not hold water in localities where the UIDHR is applied. An astonishing discovery for me is the long and persistent effort by the Muslim world of bringing religion (read: Islam) under the human rights protection framework. This means giving an ideology (theirs) the same protection accorded to humans as for rights. The implications are enormous. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Heart of this Book lies with the Truth By David Rasch By this I mean the author states in the beginning the extreme beliefs pro and con are set aside. The essence of the discussion lies in efforts to modify moslem beliefs to make them seem compatible to non-moslems. The definition of words used by moslems to describe their belief system may not be what the typical non-moslem first think of. For example, and this is my own opinion, the idea islam is the religion of peace, at first reading sounds very close to christianity, judaism and other religions. However, the peace described is for moslems when they have either killed, subordinated or converted the non-moslem world. It has nothing I can find in the koran, to do with living peacefully with non-moslem neighbors. This is why this topic volatile but more than ever needs full, free and open discission.

Islam and Human Rights is a probing examination of how the Islamic tradition has been exploited for political ends by regimes and institutions seeking to legitimize policies inimical to human rights. Ann Elizabeth Mayer critically appraises Islamic human rights schemes that dilute the human rights afforded by international law, comparing them with the complex Islamic legal heritage and international human rights law. Challenging stereotypes about a supposedly monolithic Islam inherently incompatible with human rights, Mayer dissects the political motives behind the selective deployment of elements of the Islamic tradition by conservative forces seeking to delegitimize demands for democracy and human rights. The fifth edition provides an updated consideration of government policies on Islam and human rights activism and how they are affecting developments in several Middle Eastern countries, and features a new chapter on the resistance of human rights for sexual minorities by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) project to co-opt international human rights law to criminalize defamation of Islam occurring in the West. The new edition also analyzes the other most recent and important issues of the region, including: The burgeoning pressures in the Middle East for human rights leading up to the Arab Spring; The ambitious campaign of the (OIC) to influence the UN human rights system by forging alliances with non-Muslim states hostile to human rights; The concerted efforts by this cross-cultural alliance to subvert international human rights law under pretenses of supporting human rights; The intensifying controversies over issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in the Middle East; The Danish Cartoons controversy and the OIC project to co-opt international human rights law to criminalize defamation of Islam occurring in the West.

"In this fifth edition of what has become a classic book, Mayer provides an early look at the human rights implications of the Arab Spring, and by substantially expanding coverage of new movements (particularly among women) and the newly emerging issues of gender and sexual orientation, offers considerably more than a simple update. Islam and Human Rights belongs in the library of any scholar seriously interested in its important topics. Highly recommended." Choice "A unique contribution to the discourse and practice of human rights. Reza Afshari, Pace University" A winning reference for any discussion on Islam and human rights issues. The Midwest Book