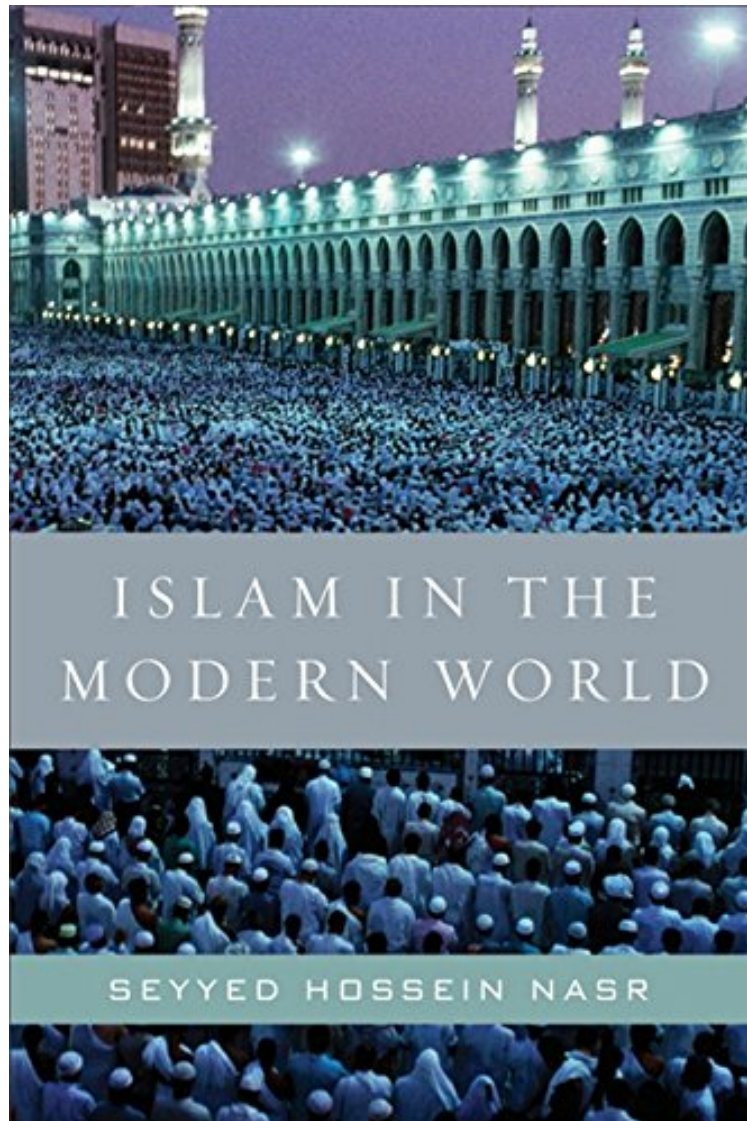


[PDF] Islam in the Modern World: Challenged by the West, Threatened by Fundamentalism, Keeping Faith with Tradition

Islam in the Modern World: Challenged by the West, Threatened by Fundamentalism, Keeping Faith with Tradition

Seyyed Hossein Nasr

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Seyyed Hossein Nasr : Islam in the Modern World: Challenged by the West, Threatened by Fundamentalism, Keeping Faith with Tradition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam in the Modern World: Challenged by the West, Threatened by Fundamentalism, Keeping Faith with Tradition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Need to understand!By mutsayJust getting into it, but I think I am going to benefit from it...THANK YOU0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Khansgood5 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Nostalgic look at past Islamic cultureBy William Garrison Jr."Islam in the Modern World" by Seyyed Hossein Nasr (first ed. c. 1990, but extensively revised, updated with new chapters: hardback 2010), 472 pgs. Nasr is known for writing books contending that Islam is a moderate, peaceful religion. Does this mean we need to ignore what he has to say? Perhaps there is some knowledge, if not just 'factoids' to be learned from him. What strove Nasr to update this book was due to: "Only during the past few decades has a new phenomenon appeared that necessitates distinguishing rigorously between traditional Islam and not only modernism, but also that spectrum of feeling... that has come to be identified... as 'fundamentalist', revivalist, or 'activist' Islam." Nasr contends that the 1990s-2000s-era 'revivalist' (jihadist) groups "that speak of reviving Islam in opposition to modernism and Western civilization" (p. 2) misunderstand non-violent Islam. However, Nasr doesn't go into any depth in detailing the militant activities of any particular 'terrorist' jihadist group (i.e., al-Qaeda). Despite his opposition to jihadism, Nasr doesn't go into detail in stating what he has against militant jihadism besides its violence (not all Muslims have to be violence-prone). This book provides a generic background history of Muslims and the Islamic religion. The author discusses the differences in Islamic theology, science and spirituality (Sufism). Nasr is fond of the past 'achievements' of Islamic architecture and science, but acknowledges that the West overtook Islamic in science and economic achievements starting in the 17th century. There are several appendices in which Nasr lists 'milestone' books written by medieval Muslims regarding architecture, philosophy, science, theology, etc. Nasr contends that while the West thinks it has overtaken Muslims in industrial and intellectual development, Nasr argues that rather than compete against the modern world the Muslim world decided to 'lay back' as its "Islamic science [theology] possesses a [religious] message that is of more than historical interest" (p. 147). Essentially, Nasr argues that the spiritual message of Islam is more important than the material wealth achieved by the West; a thought that is reflected in his book's subtitle: "Challenged by the West, threatened by Fundamentalism, keeping faith with Tradition". Nasr is fond of Islam's past educational "achievements", but he doesn't dwell on examining why there are so few current Islamic Nobel Prize winners. Nasr looks at Islam as it developed in the 10-11-12th centuries for guidance as to how Islam is going to enhance the lifestyles of Muslims in the 21st Century, but he doesn't really present convincing arguments. Nostalgia has its place, but really, a chapter on: "Islamic Art and its Spiritual Significance in the Contemporary World"? So why read this book given the vast ocean of similar 'mild' works? Personally, I found this book of good value due to the many unfamiliar Arabic terms used to identify various Islamic concepts.

The foremost U.S. authority on Islam and, Seyyed Hossein Nasr discusses today's hot button issues including holy wars, women's rights, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, and the future of Muslims in the Middle East in this groundbreaking discussion of the fastest-growing religion in the world. One of the great scholars in the modern Islamic intellectual tradition, and the acclaimed author of books such as *The Garden of Truth* and *The Heart of Islam*, Nasr brings incomparable insight to this exploration of Muslim issues and realities, delivering a landmark publication promoting cross-cultural awareness and world peace.

From Booklist Nasr, one of the world's foremost scholars of Islam, here updates one of his classic works in response to the major changes in the Islamic world (and its relationship with the non-Islamic world) that have occurred since the text was last revised in 1990. At its core is the tension between traditional Islam, the worldview defined by the equilibrium promulgated by the Shariah and the serenity of Islamic spirituality and expressed through traditional Islamic philosophy, science, art, and architecture, and the disunities and profanities of secular modernism that are the norm in the Western world and now pervade much of the Islamic world as well. In rejecting and critiquing modernism, Nasr argues, traditional Islam retains its rich spiritual vitality despite the challenges it faces from within and without. Among the greatest of these challenges is that presented by Islamic fundamentalism and violent radicalism, which, says Nasr, claim to reflect traditional Islam but have actually been profoundly corrupted by some of the modern West's ugliest attributes. Though passionately argued, this book is essentially an argument for the primacy of a particularly orthodox approach to Islamic faith and as such may not resonate with those inclined toward other Islamic beliefs. It does, however, provide an erudite and unusually accessible look into the ongoing struggle for the heart of Islam. -- Brendan Driscoll An erudite and unusually accessible look into the ongoing struggle for the heart of Islam. (Booklist) From the Back Cover The world's fastest-growing religion is also the most misunderstood in the West. In *Islam in the Modern World*, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, one of the world's leading experts on Islamic thought, explains why traditional Islam exists in tension with modern Western culture, while at the same time it is also opposed by many currents of Islamic fundamentalism. *Islam in the Modern World* offers an inside look at this increasingly factious religion with increasing global relevance.