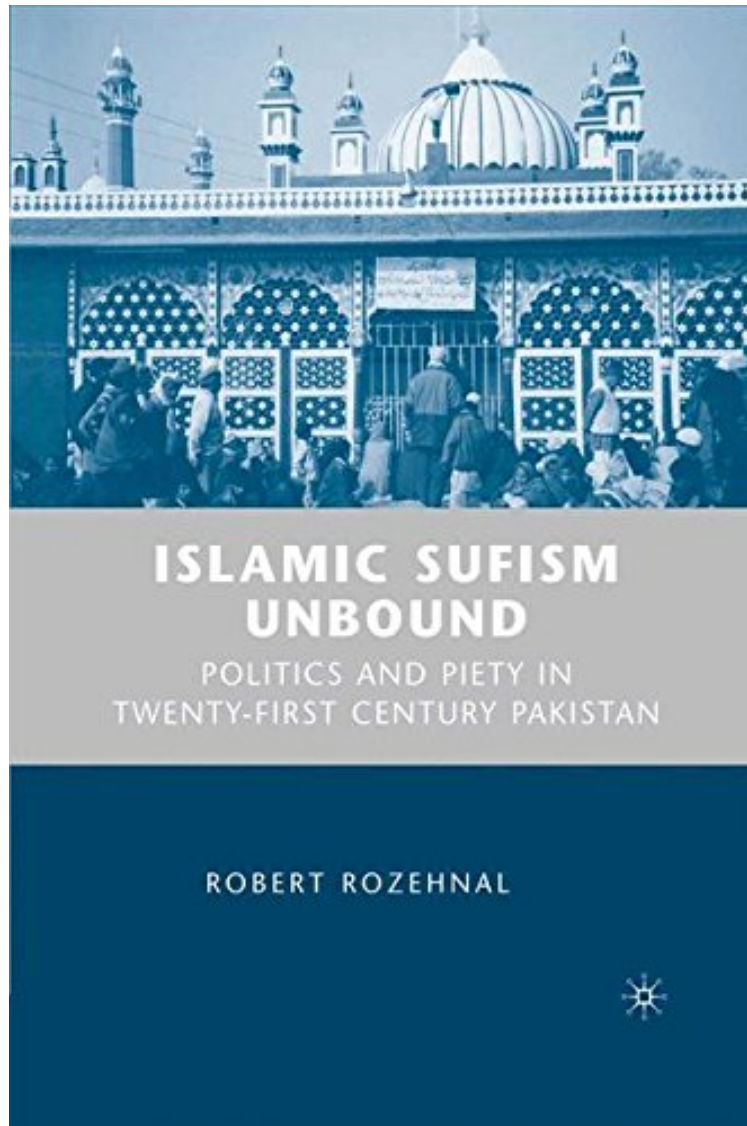


Islamic Sufism Unbound: Politics and Piety in Twenty-First Century Pakistan

R. Rozehnal

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R. Rozehnal : Islamic Sufism Unbound: Politics and Piety in Twenty-First Century Pakistan before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islamic Sufism Unbound: Politics and Piety in Twenty-First Century Pakistan:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Contemporary Islamic Pakistan By R Rivers The author clearly did a

thorough study of the history of Sufism and then proceeded to present a comprehensive review of Sufism in contemporary Pakistan. He treated the Sufis with great respect and understanding in his many personal interviews. A must read for anyone wanting to be informed of Islam in present day Pakistan. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. original and exciting window on Sufi practice and Pakistani politics

By student of life

Rozeznal's book is a compelling account of a 20th century Sufi order. He takes the reader behind the scenes, showing how personalities, histories, and politics interweave with rituals and belief structures that have been passed down from master to disciple for many generations. This is an essential read for anyone interested in Sufi practice or the role of Sufism in Pakistani politics. The book also provides in depth profiles of three modern Sufi masters in the Chishti Sabiri order, each with a different emphasis in his teachings and philosophy and very different personalities - including one British man who converted to Islam and rose through the spiritual ranks to the level of a teaching shaykh. Rozeznal deepens the book with rich ethnographic detail from many interviews with current disciples, bringing to life the experience of being a Sufi in modern Pakistan. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Model of Scholarship

By Brian Pinaire

This is the best book I have read on Sufism. Rozeznal is to be applauded for wading into controversial and dangerous waters and producing a first-rate study that should serve as a model for scholars in a variety of fields. According to the biographical information given, he teaches in a Department of Religious Studies, but he is clearly just as fluent in politics, anthropology, and history. This is an absolute "must read" for anyone interested in this region.

Robert Rozeznal traces the ritual practices and identity politics of a contemporary Sufi order in Pakistan: the Chishti Sabris. He takes multiple perspectives from the rich Urdu writings of Twentieth Century Sufi masters, to the complex spiritual life of contemporary disciples and the order's growing transnational networks.

'Neither institutional Sufism nor Pakistani politics have ever been put in direct conversation as nimbly as they are in this masterful study by Robert Rozeznal. Few who care about identity politics or Muslim religious vitality- beyond the headlines of extremism or Islamism can ignore this well crafted, and insightful, book.' - Bruce Lawrence, Nancy Jeffrey Marcus Humanities Professor of Islamic Studies and Director, Duke Islamic Studies Center, USA

'Islamic Sufism Unbound is a pathbreaking analysis of the role of religion and mysticism in the contemporary world. The story of the Sabiri Chishti Sufi order and its engagements with modernity and the nation-state is absorbing and in many respects surprising. Robert Rozeznal draws upon detailed ethnographic accounts as well as an extensive knowledge of the Sufi tradition to present this important case study of Sufism and Islam today.' - Carl W. Ernst, William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA

'Islamic Sufism Unbound is a tour de force that unravels the multiple layers of spiritual practice in modern Muslim societies. Rozeznal shows the salience of religious practices in modern urban centers in south Asia and beyond and how it impacts various aspects of human life from intimate personal meditations to the most exuberant public performances; how religious practices frame both nationalism and transnational identities and how it tangibly impacts politics and economics. Throughout the Muslim world there are many figures and communities similar to those examined in this wonderfully written book, which deserve great scholarly and public attention in order to further the public understanding of transnational Islam. Rozeznal has paved a way forward with the commendable critical insights he sheds on the subject matter in order to illuminate the complexity of religious practice.' - Ebrahim Moosa, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies, Duke University and Associate Director, Duke Islamic Studies Center, USA

'...a significant contribution to the study of Islam in postcolonial and modern contexts...The lively writing style and use of the voices of Chishti Sabiri disciples make this an appealing book for both advanced undergraduate and graduate-level courses.' - Politics and Piety in Twenty-First Century Pakistan

About the Author

ROBERT ROZEZNAL is Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Lehigh University, USA.