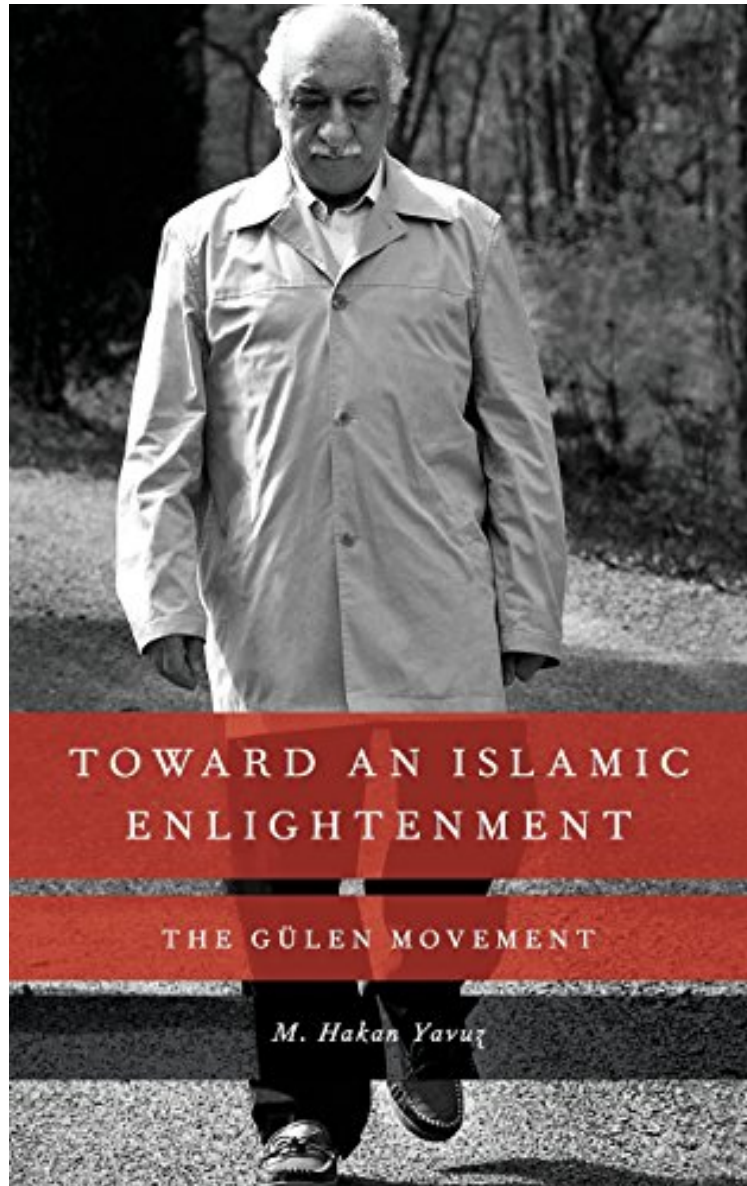


## Toward an Islamic Enlightenment: The Glen Movement

*M. Hakan Yavuz*

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**M. Hakan Yavuz : Toward an Islamic Enlightenment: The Glen Movement** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Toward an Islamic Enlightenment: The Glen Movement:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. charter school networks like the Concept schools related to Gulen and the international ...By Bennett Brown I purchased this book hoping to understand how the U.S. charter school networks like the Concept schools related to Gulen and the international movement. I knew the Concept schools to be

effective in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and wanted to understand the connections of this charter school network to a global network of Gulen schools that focus on STEM. The book helped me understand the relationship to Islam, Turkish politics, and Gulen finances. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and well-written explication of Gulen theology. By Daiho. Before stumbling upon Yavuz's work, my reading on Hizmet had been limited to news items, a few foreign policy analyses, and Ebaugh's sociological investigation, *The Gulen Movement: A Sociological Analysis of a Civic Movement Rooted in Moderate Islam*. The latter was quite helpful in understanding how the Hizmet is organized and financed. Yavuz substantially agrees with Ebaugh's presentation of the group as a loose affiliation of like-minded believers financed by sympathetic Turkish business interests. Neither researcher presents any evidence suggesting a secret cabal seeking to overthrow secular governments or establish Islamic states. What was most helpful in Yavuz's account was his description of Gulen theology. The founder is known for his oratorical skills and an ability to move and inspire audiences, and not at all for intellectual treatises. What program Gulen presents is implied and must be teased out of sermons, speeches, and inspirational writings. On the surface, at least, it seems the Hizmet is exceptionally progressive. The movement has a network of world-class schools that regularly graduate exceptional candidates in math and science; it eschews explicit religious education and proselytization, believing actions speak louder than words; it is solidly middle class and financially self-supporting; it is organized largely from the bottom up and therefore responsive to local needs and conditions; and it is actively engaged in and promotes interreligious dialog. The irony is that while Hizmet seemingly confutes a religious requirement for moral behavior, Yavuz describes Gulen as someone incapable of understanding that modern societies have competing worldviews and diverse ethical principles. This blinds him to the possibility of a God-free morality or political system. They are, in other words, stuck in a world of believers and unbelievers in which non-Muslims are morally suspect. Also noteworthy is their lack of intrareligious dialog, suggesting they find at least some religious groups contemptible. Despite being an academic text, Yavuz writes clearly and directly to produce a manuscript easily accessible to non-specialists. Recommended. 9 of 12 people found the following review helpful. *Gulen Movement*. By Nihilan. Do Islamic discourses and practices sustain liberal and democratic structure? When do Islamic discourses become authoritarian and hegemonic? When and under what conditions religion become a democratizing force in the public sphere? These are some of the main questions Yavuz is trying to answer. This is the first comprehensive and theoretical work on the Gulen movement. Its goal is not to participate in the debate over the Gulen movement in Turkey but rather provide an analytical debate over the role of the movement. Yavuz is not shy to critique the movement as well. He argues that the movement is communitarian (and authoritarian, as in many cases), does not encourage critical thinking, does not support women's participation in the public life, and it is becoming a political force and a source of fear for many liberal Turks. Yet, Yavuz argues that the movement is a democratizing and modernizing force in Turkey by thickening civil society, creating alternative spaces of communication, and improving education system. Through the Gulen movement, Yavuz provides a detailed analysis how piety turns into action and how these actions, in turn, shape the debate between modernity and Islam, science and religion, and democracy and religious activism. The book is based on many interviews and focus-group discussions. Having the goal of understanding the origins and evolution of a faith-inspired sociopolitical movement, the book grounds the Gulen Movement within broader social-science literature. In this regard, the book is not only about the workings of Islam in Turkey but also turning piety into social activism. I think this book is not going to please either the followers of Gulen or the zealous critics of the movement.

M. Hakan Yavuz offers an insightful and wide-ranging study of the Gulen Movement, one of the most imaginative developments in contemporary Islam. Founded in Turkey by the Muslim thinker Fethullah Gulen, the Gulen Movement aims to disseminate a "moderate" interpretation of Islam through faith-based education. Its activities have fundamentally altered religious and political discourse in Turkey in recent decades, and its schools and other institutions have been established throughout Central Asia and the Balkans, as well as western Europe and North America. Consequently, its goals and modus operandi have come under increasing scrutiny around the world. Yavuz introduces readers to the movement, its leader, its philosophies, and its practical applications. After recounting Gulen's personal history, he analyzes Gulen's theological outlook, the structure of the movement, its educational premise and promise, its financial structure, and its contributions (particularly to debates in the Turkish public sphere), its scientific outlook, and its role in interfaith dialogue. *Towards an Islamic Enlightenment* shows the many facets of the movement, arguing that it is marked by an identity paradox: despite its tremendous contribution to the introduction of a moderate, peaceful, and modern Islamic outlook—so different from the Iranian or Saudi forms of radical and political Islam—the Gulen Movement is at once liberal and communitarian, provoking both hope and fear in its works and influence.

"Provides a helpful general introduction for newcomers to the field and contributes some original fieldwork data that will be of interest to specialists." --*American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* "This is a comprehensive and brilliant analysis of one of the most influential and controversial Turkish thinkers and activists of the contemporary world-

Fethullah Glen. M. Hakan Yavuz lays bare the wellsprings of the Glen movement and probes with unusual clarity and evenhandedness the reasons for its remarkable success. Highly recommended for those who wish to take the pulse of Turkish Islam and its global ramifications."--Asma Afsaruddin, Chair Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages Cultures, Indiana University Bloomington"Richly nuanced... a well-written, first-rate analysis that will lead one to empathize with its subject, appreciate its strengths." --Middle East Journal"This is an insightful scholarly narrative and authoritative analysis of the pragmatic evolution of an Islamic enlightenment project. The Glen Movement remains a contingent and contested work-in-progress, yet it has already realized some of its modernizing potential through an Islamic contextual theology of deep concern with the dialectic of the eternal message of Islam and the human condition."--Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, author of *Islam and the Secular State*"A deeply sympathetic yet critical interpretation of Fethullah Glen and his increasingly influential and controversial Turkish Muslim movement. Yavuz offers a contextually rich, nuanced, and balanced account of the ongoing aggiornamento of the pietist Muslim movement to secular modernity."--Jose Casanova, Professor of Sociology and Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University"This well-timed book not only provides an update on the growth of the [Gulen] movement over the last decade; it also offers the deepest view yet of its roots... In terms of its scope and analysis, the book is of a high caliber and fills an important gap." --Middle East Policy

About the Author  
M. Hakan Yavuz is Professor of Political Science at the University of Utah.