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The Trouble With Islam Today: A Muslim's Call For Reform In Her Faith



THE TROUBLE WITH ISLAM TODAY

Irshad Manji



Synopsis

Winner of Oprah's first "Chutzpah Award" for boldness, Irshad Manji is among the world's most visible - and vocal - Muslim reformers. In this audiobook, narrated by her, Irshad explains the disturbing attitudes with which too many of her fellow Muslims practice Islam today: Arab cultural tribalism posing as pure faith. An uncritical approach to the Quran as the final and therefore superior word of God. And a rejection of universal human rights as if they are incompatible with the Divine. As a faithful Muslim, Irshad shows that Islam has the raw material to rectify these injustices. Irshad offers a practical vision of how reform-minded Muslim can empower women, promote respect for religious minorities and foster a competition of ideas. This vision builds on "ijtihad" (ij-tee-had), Islam's lost tradition of independent thinking. Irshad Manji's message for Muslims and non-Muslims? Dare to ask questions - out loud. In this audiobook, her voice rings clearly, compassionately, and passionately. You will love the musical surprises, too!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I greatly appreciate the critique of Islam casting other ideologies as superior by comparison a bit of a stretch. The entities used as standards against which Islam is judged are responsible for actions at least as egregious as those of radical Islamists. Far more innocent people have been slaughtered and displaced by Western aggression than by Islamic terrorists.

Yep, Islam has some major flaws. Yes, it needs a reform. But who's going to reform Islam, when Saudi Arabia is so rich with oil? who's going to change its ways, when a barrel of oil costs about

70\$ and worldwide demand is still strong? It seems like Islam is just too big to change, and although Manji's book is a rare cry for change, it doesn't provide a wide-enough perspective on this global religion. The clear connection between the oil market and extreme Islam is too strong to break, even in 2014 or 2015. I felt that by sticking to Irshad's personal story, the book remains too small to capture the imagination of many people. Islam means something else to every person, and "the trouble with Islam" is just one trouble told from an individual point of view. It needs much more to make a splash. However, with all that criticism laid out, she's still a very brave woman to publish this stuff, which puts her in direct danger.

Irshad Manji's book is a major contribution to the growing body of work by women disaffected by Islam. She adds her name to the likes of Ayan Hirsi Ali, Brigitte Gabriel, and Wafa Sultan. She is a courageous woman and an excellent writer. She misses on only one point and it is a point which goes to the core of the matter. It isn't Islam which is the problem. No one cares what faith people follow or what their religious convictions are. The problem is sharia, which is frequently, and inaccurately, referred to as "religious law." It is in fact a violent, repressive, and totalitarian political code. When Islam is able to disengage from sharia it is innocuous. When sharia is rigorously imposed it transforms Islam from a mere religion to a fascist political system. Separating the religion from the politics has ample precedent, for instance in Turkey and Kazakhstan. Alas, they are the exceptions. Ms. Manji's book misses this point but it doesn't miss much else and hers is a welcome, clear, rational voice.

The book as written by the author is really respectful and readable, a difficult job given the task. The author has some fresh insights that challenge "settled wisdom" in three spheres: Islam, Arab and middle eastern society, and western democratic society. Her perspective draws on the common values that all three hold dear. It will, of course, enrage some loud people in all three spheres, but that has not dissuaded her from her effort, nor has it given her a mean or hostile tone towards any of those who will try to shout her down. Bravo! The copy I received should have been "near perfect", but it turned out that the vendor lied. Instead of getting a clean copy, I got one chock full of inane comments and multi-coloured underlining by the first owner. BOO! HISS! to the vendor.

The Trouble with Islam: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith is a bold, honest, thoughtful, intelligent, sincere effort to deal with the problems that seem inherent in Islam and in Islam's relation to the rest of the world. Irshad Manji confronts all the issues with candor, humor, and intelligence.

Her stand is that Islam can be worked on and changed from the inside. Her understanding of the history of Islam combined with her travels and experience give the book perspective and relevance in today's world. It is perhaps ironic that all the virtues of this book find severe conflict with the 'radical' muslim element who command the majority viewpoint in the world. Because of this Irshad's very life is in danger because she has the audacity to even question or examine muslim tenets with the light of reason. This is a good read and very helpful to us 'infidels' who can't understand the violent and brutal events that are done in the name of Islam.

I finished this book a few weeks ago and have been thinking about it ever since. I found it to be thoughtful and insightful. It is written as an open letter to all Muslims and as such takes on a very conversational tone. It is a very easy read with something to think about on almost every page. This is a book every American should read.

As a non-Muslim currently living in a Muslim country, I found this book very informative. Yes, I'm surrounded by information on and views about Islam every day, but few, if any, come from a critical source. We all need to examine our beliefs - that doesn't mean we're dropping them; examining them can often make them stronger. Unexamined faith isn't likely to lead to true understanding. This book gave detailed information about modern Islam but also about the author's personal experience with it. The combination of the two gives a great starting point for really looking at the faith.

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