Islam in Liberalism

Joseph Massad's Islam in Liberalism explores what Islam has become in today's world, with full attention to the politics of the Middle East, the spreading virulence of jihadism, and Europe's increasing vulnerability as an open society to an essentially intolerant Islam.

Massad describes how the categorization of Islam as "the Other" is inscribed in the genealogical narratives of Western liberalism since its origins. The politics and sociocultural history of Europe, the Middle East, and the United States are intertwined in Massad's analyses of the ways that Islam is used as an instrument of ideological, cultural, and political control from the colonial period to the present.

Massad argues that contemporary Islamists do not define themselves as a progressive anti-colonial movement that seeks to liberate the Islamic world from Western influence. Instead, they are a reaction to the decline of the Islamic world. Their agenda is not to fight imperialism but to promote aversion to the West. Massad presents Islamism as both a political force and an ideological strategy that has been used to justify wars of aggression and terrorism.

Massad's analysis of Islam in Liberalism is a critique of the liberal democratic narrative that sees liberalism as a universal model of human rights and political freedom. He argues that this narrative has been used to justify wars of aggression and terrorism, and that it has been instrumental in the decline of the Islamic world.

Massad's book is a powerful and provocative intervention in the ongoing debate about Islam and liberalism. It offers a critical perspective on the ways in which liberalism has been used to justify wars of aggression and terrorism, and it provides a powerful critique of the liberal democratic narrative.

Islam in Liberalism is an unflinching critique of Western assumptions and of the liberalism that Europe and Euro-America blindly present as a type of salvation to an assumingly unenlightened Islam. Massad's analysis of Islam in Liberalism is a powerful and provocative intervention in the ongoing debate about Islam and liberalism. It offers a critical perspective on the ways in which liberalism has been used to justify wars of aggression and terrorism, and it provides a powerful critique of the liberal democratic narrative.

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