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## *Significant New Books on Islam and Radical Islam in 2005*

COMPILED BY APARNA PANDE

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Abou El Fadl, Khaled M. *The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam From The Extremists* (Harper San Francisco 2005)

The book argues that extremist sects like the Wahhabis should be treated as unpopular fringe movements and not as legitimate representatives of Islam or its teachings.

Aslan, Reza. *No God but God: the Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam* (Random House Inc. 2005)

According to Aslan, the Muslim world is in the throes of an 'Islamic Reformation.'

Barton, Greg. *Indonesia's Struggle: Jemaah Islamiyah and the Soul of Islam* (University of New South Wales Press. 2005)

The book traces the religious, cultural, and political development of Jemaah Islamiyah, the group responsible for the Bali bombings and other acts of terror in Southeast Asia.

Bin Hallaq, Wael. *Origins and Evolution of Islamic Law* (Cambridge University Press. 2005)

The book covers over three centuries of Islamic legal history and shows how Islamic law developed from ancient Near Eastern legal cultures, Arabian customary law and the Quran.

Bin Laden, Osama. *What Does Al-Qaeda Want?: Unedited Communiqués* (North Atlantic Books. 2005)

A sampling of some key al-Qaeda texts, with introductions and commentaries for context.

Blankley, Tony. *The West's Last Chance: Will We Win the Clash of Civilizations* (Regnery Publishers.2005)

The book discusses the threats that radical Islam poses to the future of Europe, and also tries to offer a solution.

Bostom, Andrew G. (ed) *Legacy Of Jihad: Islamic Holy War And The Fate Of Non-Muslims* (Prometheus Books. 2005)

The book traces the history of jihad and argues that jihad, as a permanent and uniquely Islamic institution, regulates the relations of Muslims with non-Muslims to this day.

Bradley, John. *Saudi Arabia Exposed: Inside a Kingdom in Crisis* (Palgrave Macmillan. 2005)

The book looks at social and cultural dynamics within Saudi Arabia that might, in the near future, result in stunning changes.

Chehab, Zaki. *Inside the Resistance: The Iraqi Insurgency And the Future of the Middle East* (Thunder's Mouth Press. 2005)

The book describes the methods of the Iraqi resistance movement and the extent of the involvement of al-Qaeda and other foreign fighters.

Cook, David. *Understanding Jihad* (University of California Press. 2005)

A scholarly book that unravels the tangled historical, intellectual, and political meanings of jihad by looking closely at a range of sources, from sacred Islamic texts to modern interpretations.

Dahlby, Tracy. *Allah's Torch: A Report from Behind the Scenes in Asia's War on Terror* (Harper Collins. 2005)

The former *Newsweek* and *Washington Post* bureau chief talks about his experiences in Indonesia and his encounters with jihadis and statesmen.

Devji, Faisal. *Landscapes of the Jihad: Militancy, Morality, Modernity* (Cornell University Press. 2005)

The book seeks to explain the driving purpose behind al-Qaeda's jihad against the West, the meaning of its strategies and tactics, and its moral and aesthetic dimensions.

Diamond, Larry J. *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq* (Times Books. 2005)

The book is an insider's account of the early phases of the U.S. military presence in Iraq and a critical assessment of America's effort to implant democracy.

Dreyfuss, Robert. *Devil's Game: How the United States Helped Unleash Fundamentalist Islam* (Metropolitan Books. 2005)

This is an account of American foreign policy towards the Middle East, stretching across a period of six decades. According to Dreyfuss, American alignment with the Islamic right during those years led to the rise of Islamic terrorism in the 1990s.

Ehrenfeld, Rachel. *Funding Evil, Expanded Edition: How Terrorism Is Financed—And How to Stop It* (Bonus Books Inc. 2005)

A discussion of the clandestine ways Islamic terror groups finance their global network.

Emerson, Steve and Vidino, Lorenzo. *Al-Qaeda in Europe: The New Battleground of International Jihad* (Prometheus Books. 2005)

The book provides a historical overview of Islamic terrorist groups and their activities in Europe.

Fisk, Robert. *Great War For Civilisation: The Conquest Of The Middle East* (Alfred A. Knopf Inc. 2005)

An account of recent Middle Eastern history from the Armenian genocide to the war in Iraq. It also contains two interviews with Osama bin Laden.

Furnish, Timothy, R. *Holiest Wars: Islamic Mahdis, Their Jihads, And Osama Bin Laden* (Praeger Publishers. 2005)

The book highlights the relationship between Mahdism and the jihad being waged today by radical Islamists like Osama Bin Laden.

Gerges, Fawaz A. *Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global* (Cambridge University Press. 2005)

An account of jihadist movements around the Middle East. The author shows that these movements, far from monolithic, are rife with ideological and strategic debates.

Harari, Haim. *View From the Eye of the Storm: Terror and Reason in the Middle East* (Regan Books. 2005)

In this book, the renowned physicist Harari surveys war and peace in the Middle East and discusses what he terms the "undeclared World War III" that rages from Bali to Madrid, from Nairobi to New York, from Buenos Aires to Istanbul, and from Tunis to Moscow.

Haqqani, Husain. *Pakistan: Between Mosque And Military* (Washington, Carnegie Endowment for Intl Peace. 2005)

This book analyzes the origins of the relationships between Islamist groups and Pakistan's military, and explores Pakistan's quest for identity and security.

Khalidi, Rashid. *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints And America's Perilous Path In The Middle East* (Beacon Press. 2005)

The book examines the record of Western involvement in the Middle East and analyzes the likely outcome of our most recent incursions into the area.

Lawrence, Bruce and Cooke, Miriam. (eds.) *Muslim Networks From Hajj To Hip Hop* (University of North Carolina Press. 2005)

The book explains why Muslim networks whether for purposes of trade, education or pilgrimage - is crucial to understanding Islam.

Lawrence, Bruce. (ed.) *Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama Bin Laden* (Verso Books. 2005)

The book includes a collection of English translations of pronouncements made by Osama bin Laden since 1994, along with the author's commentary.

Lincoln, Bruce. *Holy Terrors: Thinking about Religion After September 11* (University of Chicago Press. 2005)

The book examines our understanding of religion and its interrelationships with politics and culture after September 11.

Lippman, Thomas W. *Inside The Mirage: America's Fragile Partnership with Saudi Arabia* (Westview Press. 2005)

The book looks at the 'a marriage of convenience' between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia and shows that behind the cheerful picture of friendship and alliance, there is a darker tale.

Manji, Irshad. *Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call For Reform In Her Faith* (St. Martin's Griffin. 2005)

The book talks about the author's life experiences growing up in a Western Muslim household and asks some compelling questions from the perspective of a feminist Muslim.

McDermott, Terry. *Perfect Soldiers: The Hijackers Who They Were, Why They Did It* (Harpercollins. 2005)

The book discusses the 19 hijackers behind the September 11 terrorist attacks, including their biographies and their motives.

Meyer, Gabriel. *War And Faith In Sudan* (Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2005)

The book chronicles the violence in central Sudan at the close of the country's second civil war in 2005.

Miles, Hugh. *Al-Jazeera: How Arab TV News Challenges America* (Grove Press. 2005)

The book speculates on the potentially dramatic effects of Al-Jazeera's new station on the Western world while uncovering the true story behind one of the most influential media outlets.

Musallam, Adnan A. *From Secularism to Jihad : Sayyid Qutb and the Foundations of Radical Islamism* (Praeger Publishers. 2005)

The book traces and analyzes Sayyid Qutb's emergence as an independent Islamist within the context of his society and the problems that it faced.

Napoleoni, Loretta. *Insurgent Iraq: Al-Zarqawi And the New Generation* (Seven Stories Press. 2005)

The book argues that the American adventure in Iraq resuscitated a network rife with conflict and birthed a new generation of post-Cold War mujahedeen.

Peters, Rudolph. *Jihad In Classical And Modern Islam: A Reader* (Markus Wiener Publishers. 2005)

Through a detailed analysis the book tries to show that there is more to jihad than just war and there can also be a jihad against other issues like social evils like poverty and crime.

Phares, Walid. *Future Jihad : Terrorist Strategies Against America* (Palgrave Macmillan. 2005)

The book discusses America's mistaken understanding of al-Qaeda, and offers a plan for how America might win the ideological war against Islamic jihad.

Shadid, Anthony. *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War* (Henry Holt & Co. 2005)

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Shadid explains how Saddam's downfall may have paved the way not only for democracy but also for an Islamic reawakening and jihad in Iraq.

Selbourne, David. *Losing The Battle With Islam* (Prometheus Books. 2005)

This is a study of the Islamic revival from 1947 to the present and traces in detail the causes motivating the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in many countries.

Spencer, Robert. *Myth of Islamic Tolerance: How Islamic Law Treats Non-Muslims* (Prometheus Books.2005)

The book attempts to disprove the view that Muslims are tolerant of non-Muslims by showing that Muslim attitudes are rooted in laws and cultural habits that are connected organically to the concept of jihad and its corollary institution, *dhimmitude*.

Wiktorowicz, Quintan. *Radical Islam Rising: Muslim Extremism In The West* (Rowman & Littlefield Pub Inc. 2005)

The book seeks to explain why thousands of Westerners have joined radical Islamic groups and provides a case study of the al-Muhajiroun group based in England.

Ye'Or, Bat. *Eurabia: The Euro-Arab Axis* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. 2005)

Among other things, this book looks at the relations between Europe and the Arab world over the past 30-plus years and their geopolitical implications.

Aparna Pande is a doctoral student in political science at Boston University.

Radical Islam or Islamic Radicalism can be conceptualized as a historical, socio-economic, political and cultural movement that perceives Islam as a comprehensive religion, a revolutionary political ideology, and a state. It means an attitude of mind accommodating actions that aim, for whatever reason, to violently undermine and transform the status quo or order of unbelief and injustice into a utopian one of faith (iman) and equality. These terms are, therefore, intrinsically associated with radical transformation or destroying and tearing up a system by its roots through Jihad/violence and replacing it with an alternative Islamic system based on Islamic laws (shari'a) and that utilizes the Qur'an and Prophetic traditions (sunnah) as referential frameworks. The first Islamist book, *Al-Adala al-Jtima'iyya* (Social Justice in Islam), published in 1949, explained his widespread appeal as due to his ability to offer to the world Islamic issues in the style of today, as against communism, imperialism, socialism and capitalism. Rashid Ghannouchi of Tunisia's Islamist al-Nahda (Renaissance) Party recalls how after turning to *al-Jama'at al-Jihad* in their attacks on personnel and institutions connected to the Husni Mubarak government.<sup>13</sup> These and other Islamist revolutionaries may have taken Qutb's radical thought further in the direction of violent resistance than he would have counselled. However the existence of radical Islam is the logical consequence of the free era following the falloff the New Order. As a part of democratic process that has been fought by blood shed, their existence is undeniable. Esposito described the observers' surprise as the following: Though Islam is considered as quite significant power in the 20th century, Islamic power and interaction in social and political reforms are sometimes undermined. For most observers, Islam is the change obstacle which becomes less relevant in political and social order. As stated on *Gerakan Islam Kontemporer di Indonesia* book (Pustaka Firdaus, Jakarta) The series terror phenomena prove the existence of radical Islam in Indonesia. Radical Islam poses a political challenge in the modern world which is like that of no other radical religious movement. Ideologically, it is perceived by Western policy makers as threatening the liberal-democratic ideology by which most states in the West abide and which most other states rhetorically espouse. This book serves as a welcome addition to the intellectual and policy debate on the nature of the radical Islam phenomenon and how to respond to it. The collection is divided into three parts: the first part seeks to understand the Islamic challenge in broad comparative and historical terms, while the second part deals with specific regional case studies, which seek to identify patterns of uniformity and variation in radical Islam across a wide swath of terrain. *Radical Islam in Central Asia* has been added to your Cart. Add to Cart. This fine book offers an extraordinarily well-informed and insightful examination of political Islam in Central Asia and of its place in the broader phenomenon of political Islam across the Muslim world. Vitaly Naumkin's accessible and well-written book makes a significant contribution to the debate about militant Islam in Central Asia. Naumkin's conclusion that repressive policies of the authorities have been counterproductive remains convincing. His book serves as a reminder that the best way to counter Islamic militancy is principled support for the rule of law and democratic freedoms. - - Alisher Khamidov • *Central Asian Survey*. Product details. Publisher : Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (March 3, 2005).