



Islamic Ethos and the Specter of Modernity

Farzin Vahdat

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A close textual analysis of nine key Muslim thinkers on the modern world.

“Vahdat introduces a broad range of carefully selected source material for English readers to contribute to current debates in the social sciences, specifically the nature and scope of modernizing change, as well as its intellectual and institutional contributions and impediments. This book will be of interest to those studying these issues at a more specific level in the Muslim world, as well as those who work more generally on theoretical debates in comparative politics and democratization.”

—Ali Gheissari, University of San Diego

Drawing on the work of Hegel, this book proposes a framework for understanding modernity in the Muslim world and analyzes the discourse of prominent Muslim thinkers and political leaders. Chapter by chapter, the book undertakes a close textual analysis of the works of Mohammad Iqbal, Abul Ala Maududi, Sayyid Qutb, Fatima Mernissi, Mehdi Haeri Yazdi, Mohammad Mojtahed Shabestari, Mohammad Khatami, Seyyed Hussein Nasr and Mohamad Arkoun, drawing conclusions about contemporary Islamic thought with reference to some of the most significant markers of modernity.

Readership

This book will be of interest to scholars and students, particularly those within Islamic and Middle Eastern studies; this book will also appeal generally to those interested in intellectual history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology and cultural studies.

Contents

Introduction; 1. Sir Muhammad Iqbal: The Dialectician of Muslim Authenticity; 2. Sayyid Abul ‘Ala Maududi: A Theorist of Disciplinary Patriarchal State; 3. An Islamic Totality in the Ideology of Sayyid Qutb; 4. Fatima Mernissi: Women, Islam, Modernity and Democracy; 5. Mehdi Haeri Yazdi and the Discourse of Modernity; 6. Postrevolutionary Islamic Modernity in Iran: The Intersubjective Hermeneutics of Mohamad Mojtahed Shabestari; 7. Religious Modernity in Iran: Dilemmas of Islamic Democracy in the Discourse of Mohammad Khatami; 8. Seyyed Hossein Nasr: An Islamic Romantic?; 9. Mohammed Arkoun and the Idea of Liberal Democracy in Muslim Lands; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Farzin Vahdat is a sociologist working on conditions and notions of modernity and their applications to Iran, Islam and the Muslim world. Vahdat has taught at Tufts, Harvard and Yale Universities, as well as Vassar College.

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