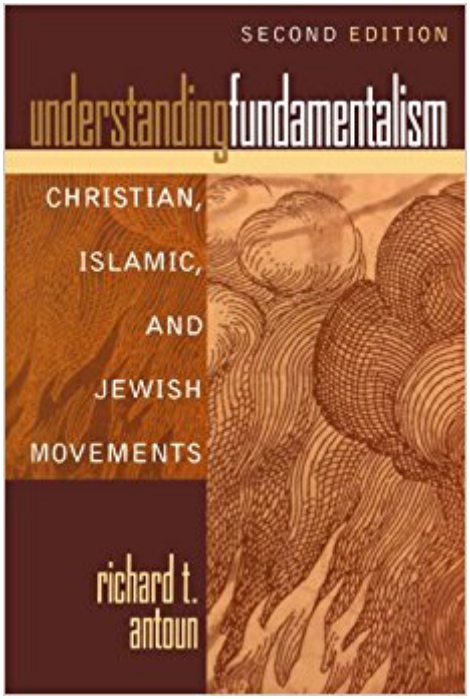
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Understanding Fundamentalism: Christian, Islamic, And Jewish Movements



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Synopsis

The second edition of Understanding Fundamentalism provides a compelling and up to date picture of religious reactions against the modern secular world. Comparing Christian, Islamic, and Jewish fundamentalist movements, anthropologist Richard Antoun shows how all three share common characteristics. In each tradition, fundamentalists seek purity in an impure world, attempt to make the ancient past relevant to their contemporary situation, look to move religion out of the worship center and into every aspect of life, and actively struggle against the aspects of the modern world they regard as evil. The new edition addresses fundamentalism in the post-9/11 world, transnational religion, and the impact of religious migration on Afghanistan and Western Europe.A glossary and Antoun's readable style make the concepts readily accessible for beginning students. For classes in religious studies, anthropology, or sociology of religion, Understanding Fundamentalism brings a balanced introduction to these often-misunderstood religious activists.

Book Information

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Praise for the first edition: A reflective, critical approach to the charged, often abused, but seldom understood concept of fundamentalism, Understanding Fundamentalism lives up to its title. Its broad scope encompasses Jewish, Christian and Muslim fundamentalist movements, while its fine-grained analysis clarifies scripture and myth, colonial and postcolonial history, the roles of women as well as men, illuminating the much-neglected adaptive capacity of fundamentalists. Indeed, the twin concepts of controlled acculturation and selective modernization etch the major theoretical advance

of this compact studyÃ¢â ¬â ¢at once original and eloquentÃ¢â ¬â ¢of those zealous Abrahamic ideologues popularly known as religious fundamentalists... (Bruce Lawrence, Duke University)Praise for the first edition: Antoun's book is an important contribution to the knowledge of a major aspect of the modern world. It explains the religious aspects of terrorism and the mechanisms that create and nurture religious extremism. It is a useful resource for all who are involved or interested in religion, contributing a serious and balanced approach to our understanding of fundamentalism.... (Seminary Studies)Praise for the first edition: This book issues from Antoun's firsthand observation of cultural change and religious reaction. A superb addition to the growing interdisciplinary canon of fundamentalism studies, the work argues for the cross-cultural application of the category and the transnational scope of the phenomenon.... Anyone seeking to understand the global phenomenon of fundamentalism will profit from this well-written book.... (Peter A. Huff, Centenary College of Louisiana International Journal on World Peace)Praise for the first edition: The author's theoretical and conceptual approach to the topic is sound, the analysis crisp and concise, the illustrations insightfully chosen..... (Middle East Quarterly)Praise for the first edition: This book's strength lies in its analytical and written clarity. Antoun makes a complex subject readable and accessible and, by the end of the book, readers have a better understanding of the motives and worldview of thosewho, for example, feel moved to commit acts of violence and terrorism in religion's name. He has achieved one of anthropology's methodological goals: empathizing with fundamentalist worldviews without being sympathetic.... It is likely to be a valuable addition to the libraries of established academics, as well as of undergraduate students, and deserves to be widely read and appreciated both within and outside the academyyy (Sophie Gilliat-Ray, Cardiff University, Wales American Journal of Islamic Social Studies)Praise for the first edition:Antoun's book is an important contribution to the knowledge of a major aspect of the modern world. It explains the religious aspects of terrorism and the mechanisms that create and nurture religious extremism. It is a useful resource for all who are involved or interested in religion, contributing a serious and balanced approach to our understanding of fundamentalism. (Seminary Studies)Praise for the first edition:A useful introduction to a complex and hotly debated subject. The book is clear, has an easy flowing style, and is enhanced further by a succinct conclusion and glossary of terms. (Peace & Change)Praise for the first edition:This book issues from Antoun's firsthand observation of cultural change and religious reaction. A superb addition to the growing interdisciplinary canon of fundamentalism studies, the work argues for the cross-cultural application of the category and the transnational scope of the phenomenon.... Anyone seeking to understand the global phenomenon of fundamentalism will profit from this well-written book. (Peter A. Huff,

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all the major issues with full academic rigor and still maintains accessibility. (George Lundskow, Grand Valley State University)As the need to understand fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam grows ever more urgent, Understanding Fundamentalism provides an eminently readable, full and compelling introduction. The new chapter for this edition on the transnational aspects of fundamentalism is very relevant to a phenomenon that is now threateningly global. The unit on Osama Bin Laden, Al-Qaida and violence is powerful and chilling. Antoun supports his careful and restrained analysis with a wealth of examples that often put personal faces on fundamentalism, its adherents and its complexities. (John Barclay Burns, George Mason University)Understanding Fundamentalism provides a well-organized theoretical exploration of fundamentalism in the modern world. Scholars of fundamentalism could gain many analytical tools from the seven attributes that Antoun elucidates. A significant contribution to the contemporary discussions around fundamentalist religious groups. (Amarnath Amarasingam, author of Pain, Pride, and Politics: Social Movement Activism and the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora in Canada Contemporary Islam, May 16, 2009)[It] provides a well-organized theoretical exploration of fundamentalism in the modern world. The book provides several theoretical tools for cross cultural analysis and applies these tools through the exploration of numerous case studies around the world. Scholars of fundamentalism could gain much analytical tools from the seven attributes that Antoun elucidates.Ã¢â ¬Â¦ Understanding Fundamentalism is a significant contribution to the contemporary discussions around the fundamentalist religious groups. (Springer Science + Business Media)

Richard T. Antoun is professor of anthropology at the State University of New York at Binghamton and the author of several books, including Arab Village, Low-Key Politics, and Muslim Preacher in the Modern World.

Although the murder of the author is what first called my attention to this book, it deserves to be reviewed on its own merits, and it does have some. Richard Antoun’s 40 years of experience observing a Muslim community in Jordan gave him ample opportunity to observe Islam. His family background and exposure to Christianity and conversion to Judaism gave him a vantage point to notice the similarities between the three major Monotheistic religions extant today. He lucidly describes the 7 criteria he uses to determine the fundamentalist nature of a sect and gives an even handed overview of his research. As a Christian, it was enlightening to discover how my particular denomination is characterized by an "outsider." Some of us take the verse about being "peculiar

people" a bit too much to heart. He didn't make outrageous accusations, or any other type of accusation, but merely recorded his observations. I hope that's not what got him killed, but it might be worth noting that his murderer was neither Christian nor Jewish. He wasn't trying to offend, merely to inform and instruct. Dangerous practices these days, it would seem.

Was not helpful coming from a sociologist he was very biased.

I have previewed this book in google previews. It appears to be a factual account of the authors interactions with individuals who are fundamentalist in their approach to their Islamic faith. I will be using it in my course at a community college this Spring, entitled 'Introduction to Cultural Anthropology'. I believe this is a book for our time given the US military incursions in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We can never know enough about other culture's points of view, and how those points of view lead to action. I am very saddened by Professor Antouns death and send condolences to his family.

The author of this book was murdered today by Abdulsalam S. al-Zahrani in his office at Binghampton University.

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