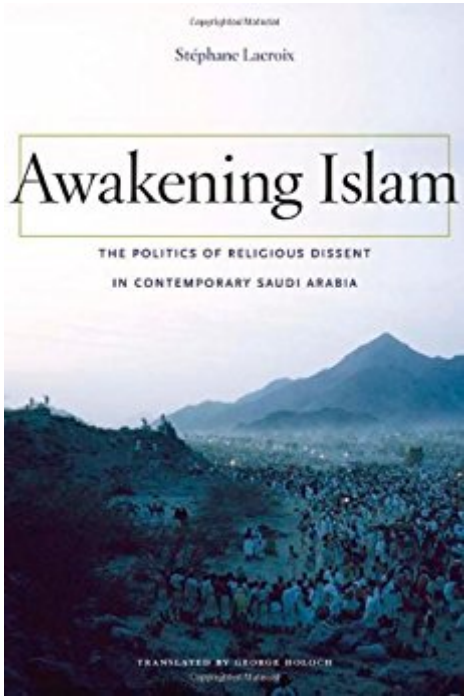
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Awakening Islam



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Synopsis

With unprecedented access to a closed culture, Lacroix offers an account of Islamism in Saudi Arabia. Tracing the last half-century of the Sahwa, or Ã¢â ¬Å“Islamic Awakening,Ã¢â ¬Â• he explains the brand of Islam that gave birth to Osama bin LadenÃ¢â ¬â •one that has been exported, and dangerously misunderstood, around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Awakening Islam is perhaps the best book written about the Islamic revival of Saudi Arabia in the middle of the 20th century. I read the Arabic translation of this work. The author, Stephane, spent 6 years of his life researching this historical black hole. The book is extremely detailed, with extended biographies of many people from different social spaces, lots of dates, names, locations, and political and social theories. Stephane used a variety of sources, including, books, magazines, letters, official statements and statistics. However, due to the academic dishonesty of many pens during that time, and the rarity of the material, he heavily relied on personal interviews, which some might validly argue that it makes this book less reliable.Although enjoyable, this is a not an easy read, especially if you are not familiar with Arabic names. Lots of the names mentioned in the book

might confuse those who don’t speak Arabic, and the historical facts about that time will shock many. The book is also not written in chronological order. It jumps back of forth in time because it is driven by the social groups and subgroups of that period rather than the historical narrative of the country. However, it only does that in a limited sense so that it never jumps too far ahead and leave the reader wondering what happened between the two points in time.Like many other academic books, this could have used better editing: the author tend to go into tangent topics in the middle of paragraphs. This breaks the flow of the book. This happens a lot when a new name is introduced. The author crams in a biography of that mentioned writer or clergy in the middle of a paragraph that describes a related idea. However, this simply might only be a problem of the translation I read.What distinguishes this book is the author’s academic ingerity: Stephane rarely does comment on the behaviors and ideas of the people of that period, no matter how absurd they seem. He paints a picture of what was taking place and let you--the reader-- judge it. This is why we know so little about this period of Saudi history despite how modern it is: many Arab and Islamic writers are immersed in their ideologies that they are willing to sacrifice their academic integrity in order to defend the ideologies.Despite its academic style and dense subject matter, this is a highly recommended journey into the history of the Islamic awakening in Saudi Arabia; an awakening that we Saudis still feel its effects today.

A description and analysis of Islamist ideas that emerged in protest of the Saud Government, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Awakening IslamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• provides a very useful resource in understanding the religion and politics of Saudi Arabia. Focusing on the ideas ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“SahwaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• movement, composed of the ulema and academics of the Saudi Kingdom, it will probably be of much more use to advanced academics already familiar with the currents of radical Islam than to the introductory student. For me it shed some important light, but I would only recommend it for those who already had some background and familiarity with the religion and politics of the Saudi Kingdom.

This book is an extremely detailed analysis of Islamic Social Development, in Saudi Arabia, from 1950 until 1980.It illustrates the weakness of leaders using moral concepts for political purposes.

Penetrating look at the political dynamics of Saudi Arabia, one of the most opaque of Muslim countries. The effort the author had to put is tremendous which gave a unique insight into a closed culture and its potent brand of Islam. 5 Stars.

The content is good, but the book was heavily marked up. It was not as listed "very good."

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