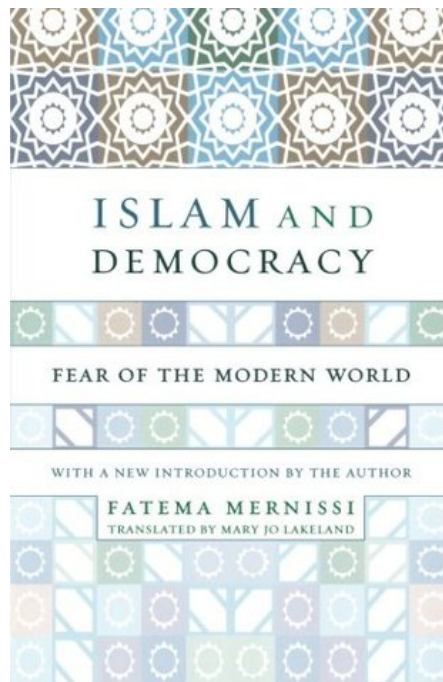




# Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World

*Fatema Mernissi , Mary Jo Lakeland (Translator)*

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**Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World** Fatema Mernissi , Mary Jo Lakeland (Translator)

Is Islam compatible with democracy? Must fundamentalism win out in the Middle East, or will democracy ever be possible? In this now-classic book, Islamic sociologist Fatima Mernissi explores the ways in which progressive Muslims--defenders of democracy, feminists, and others trying to resist fundamentalism--must use the same sacred texts as Muslims who use them for violent ends, to prove different views. Updated with a new introduction by the author written in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, *Islam and Democracy* serves as a guide to the players moving the pieces on the rather grim Muslim chessboard. It shines new light on the people behind today's terrorist acts and raises provocative questions about the possibilities for democracy and human rights in the Islamic world. Essential reading for anyone interested in the politics of the Middle East today, *Islam and Democracy* is as timely now as it was upon its initial, celebrated publication.

## Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World Details

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Author : Fatema Mernissi , Mary Jo Lakeland (Translator)

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## Essameddin Mamdouh says

i.m so interested in such field and such writer .

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## Baylee says

Puoi trovare questa recensione anche sul mio blog, La siepe di more

*Islam e democrazia* sembra un libro superato: pubblicato all'indomani della Guerra del Golfo, nel 1992, è molto focalizzato sull'impatto della televisione sulle popolazioni di Stati a maggioranza musulmana e racconta di situazioni che ormai fanno parte del passato. Eppure l'ho divorato.

Infatti, *Islam e democrazia* non racconta il presente, ma sicuramente ci dà un'idea del punto di partenza dal quale ci siamo mossi per arrivare al caos attuale. Ho apprezzato moltissimo l'analisi di Mernissi, che prende inizio addirittura dagli esordi dell'Islam per aiutarci a contestualizzare specificità della cultura araba che altrimenti non avrebbero senso.

Alla fine della lettura mi girava quasi la testa tanto è enorme la complessità della materia trattata, piena di fili diversi che si intrecciano a formare una trama che già allora mostrava le prime avvisaglie del pericolo della radicalizzazione. Eppure poco o niente è stato fatto per sventarlo, sia da parte dei regimi "musulmani", per niente inclini a educare i propri cittadini ai valori della Carta delle Nazioni Unite; sia da parte dell'Occidente, che si è intromesso a gamba tesa senza alcuna considerazione per le differenze culturali e il rispetto della popolazione civile.

Per certi versi siamo ancora allo stesso punto: ancora oggi vale quanto ho appena scritto sopra. Però oggi abbiamo Internet, che ha delle potenzialità nel diffondere informazioni di molto maggiori a quelle della televisione: l'impressione – spero troppo pessimista – è che i fondamentalisti ne siano i più consapevoli, mentre un sacco di persone che avrebbero gli strumenti per diffondere cultura e smontare gli assunti di chi diffonde merda estremista perda tempo a dimostrare che "gli altri" sono i cattivi, mentre "noi" siamo i buoni.

Lo ripeterò fino allo sfinimento: raffazzonare opinioni sull'Islam perché si è letto qualcosa qua e là serve solo a quelli che le sbandierano sui media o sui loro blog. Stiamo parlando di fenomeni complessi, dove entrano in gioco molteplici elementi (Mernissi cita addirittura il calendario e la difficoltà a trasporre in arabo alcune parole – e quindi concetti – della nostra cultura, come *presidente*) e nessuno di questi può essere compreso prendendo la via della banalizzazione. Prima lo si capisce, meglio è.

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## Mariam says

Mernissi's writing style combined with her clarity in tackling often difficult subjects, made this a joy to read. I love this book.

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### Ameera H. Al-mousa says

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### Jasmine Star says

This book provides support to those who like to explore the ways in which politics, policies, religion, and culture are so inextricably linked that it is difficult to understand why politics and religion are often scary words. I appreciated the way in which Mernissi talks about issues within Islam and explains misconceptions, where they came from, and how to move on from them. I feel like I should read the book again. The dialogue is always interesting.

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### Sara Razek says

Mernissi's lyrical prose is mesmerizing! I loved how she mingles bits and pieces of her personal history with the enfolding tragedy of the Gulf War that descended on the Arab world in 1990-1991, and helped expose how the Arabs suffer from, what Mernissi rightly calls, "mutilated modernity." Her pleas for democracy, pluralism and acceptance, which were later embraced by many youth during the Arab Spring, serve as a warning against the fascist camps of authoritarian rulers and fundamentalists who sometimes join forces and appeal for the application of shar'ia "in its meaning as a despotic caliphal tradition" to smother these calls in embryo. For Mernissi, women as well as the youth, are the avant-garde of this radical movement for change that must sooner or later sweep across the region, an observation that was correctly confirmed in 2011!

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### Lynn says

Fascinating point of view regarding the shared fears of the Arab and Western worlds. The author refers to the first Gulf War, the rise of the Internet as a force in communication and education of young Muslims, the failures of the press in representing each culture, and the barriers to peace.

For me the book provides a challenge of languages, history and religion as well as to my understanding of

the role of women and their struggles to remove the veils, literal and figurative, that protect and prevent them from participating in Islamic societies.

Recommended by a professor of French and history who herself specializes in post-Colonial history and issues.

I doubt that the imams or diplomats will take this book to heart, and the author's conclusion is too optimistic for me to place faith in it. However, I do hope that others, including a few people in high places, hear of this book and read it. One of the most difficult books for me to understand and yet so worth the effort for the insights that this author has offered.

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