

Covering Islam Edward Said

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in this classic work the author of culture and imperialism reveals the hidden agendas and distortions of fact that underlie even the most objective coverage of the islamic world with a new foreword by leah khalili no one studying the relations between the west and the decolonizing world can ignore mr said s work the new york times book review from the iranian hostage crisis through the gulf war and the bombing of the world trade center the american news media have portrayed islam as a monolithic entity synonymous with terrorism and religious hysteria at the same time islamic countries use islam to justify unrepresentative and often repressive regimes combining political commentary with literary criticism covering islam continues edward said s lifelong investigation of the ways in which language not only describes but also defines political reality

edward said takes an unusually sharp and penetrating look at the way in which the experts the policy makers and the media have dealt with the crisis in iran and the middle east he shows how our traditional misunderstandings of the outside world have led

evaluates the american media s coverage of news stories concerning islam and shows how misconceptions about the middle east have been promoted

presents key selections from the works of edward said

using many examples covering islam demonstrates that the media and the government business establishment have produced a dangerously misleading and oversimplified portrait of islam and muslims based on ignorance inaccuracy and prejudice

this is the first systematic critique of edward said s influential work orientalism a book that for almost three decades has received wide acclaim voluminous commentary and translation into more than fifteen languages said s main thesis was that the western image of the east was heavily biased by colonialist attitudes racism and more than two centuries of political exploitation although said s critique was controversial the impact of his ideas has been a pervasive rethinking of western perceptions of eastern cultures plus a tendency to view all scholarship in oriental studies as tainted by considerations of power and prejudice in this thorough reconsideration of said s famous work ibn warraq argues that said s case against the west is seriously flawed warraq accuses said of not only willfully misinterpreting the work of many scholars but also of systematically misrepresenting western civilization as a whole with example after example he shows that ever since the greeks western civilization has always had a strand in its very makeup that has accepted non westerners with open arms and has ever been open to foreign ideas the author also criticizes said for inadequate methodology incoherent arguments and a faulty historical understanding he points out not only said s tendentious interpretations but historical howlers that would make a sophomore blush warraq further looks at the destructive influence of said s study on the history of western painting especially of the 19th century and shows how once again the epigones of said have succeeded in relegating thousands of first class paintings to the lofts and storage rooms of major museums an extended appendix reconsiders the value of 18th and 19th century orientalist scholars and artists whose work fell into disrepute as a result of said s work

winner of the new yorker book award for nonfiction from one of the most important intellectuals of our time comes an

extraordinary story of exile and a celebration of an irrecoverable past a fatal medical diagnosis in 1991 convinced edward said that he should leave a record of where he was born and spent his childhood and so with this memoir he rediscovers the lost arab world of his early years in palestine lebanon and egypt engrossing said has an almost proustian feel for smells sounds sights and telling anecdotes the new york review of books said writes with great passion and wit about his family and his friends from his birthplace in jerusalem schools in cairo and summers in the mountains above beirut to boarding school and college in the united states revealing an unimaginable world of rich colorful characters and exotic eastern landscapes underscoring all is the confusion of identity the young said experienced as he came to terms with the dissonance of being an american citizen a christian and a palestinian and ultimately an outsider richly detailed moving often profound out of place depicts a young man s coming of age and the genesis of a great modern thinker

a groundbreaking critique of the west s historical cultural and political perceptions of the east that is decades after its first publication one of the most important books written about our divided world intellectual history on a high order and very exciting the new york times in this wide ranging intellectually vigorous study said traces the origins of orientalism to the centuries long period during which europe dominated the middle and near east and from its position of power defined the orient simply as other than the occident this entrenched view continues to dominate western ideas and because it does not allow the east to represent itself prevents true understanding

the renowned literary and cultural critic edward said was one of our era s most provocative and important thinkers this comprehensive collection of his work draws from across his entire four decade career including his posthumously published books making it a definitive one volume source said is a brilliant and unique amalgam of scholar aesthete and political activist he challenges and stimulates our thinking in every area washington post book world the selected works includes key sections from all of said s books including his groundbreaking orientalism his memoir out of place and his last book on late style whether writing of zionism or palestinian self determination jane austen or yeats or of music or the media said s uncompromising intelligence casts urgent light on every subject he undertakes the selected works is a joy for the general reader and an indispensable resource for scholars in the many fields that his work has influenced and transformed

brilliantly original brings cultural and post colonial theory to bear on a wide range of authors with great skill and sensitivity terry eagleton

Edward Said's *Orientalism* now more than fifty years old has to be one of the most frequently cited books among academics in a wide range of disciplines and the most frequently assigned book to undergraduates at colleges among the common questions raised in response to Said's book did scholars in Western Europe provide crucial support to the imperialist colonialist activities of European regimes are their writings on Islam laden with denigrating eroticized distorting biases that have left an indelible impact on Western society what is the *Orientalism* invented by Europe and what is its impact today however one question has been less raised or less has been done about the question how were the Orientalist writings of European scholars of Islam received among their Muslim contemporaries an international team of contributors rectify this oversight in this volume

Freedom of speech and expression is considered in the West a high public good and an important social value underpinned by legislative and ethical norms its importance is not shared to the same extent by conservative and devout Muslims who read Islamic doctrines in ways seemingly incompatible with Western notions of freedom of speech since the Salman Rushdie affair in the 1980s there has been growing recognition in the West that its cherished value of free speech and associated freedoms relating to arts the press and media literature academia critical satire etc episodically clash with conservative Islamic values that limit this freedom for the sake of holding religious issues sacrosanct recent controversies such as the Danish cartoons the Charlie Hebdo affair Quran burnings and the internet film *The Innocence of Muslims* which have stirred violent reactions in the Muslim world have made the West aware of the fact that Muslims' religious sensitivities have to be taken into account in exercising traditional Western freedoms of speech featuring experts across a spectrum of fields within Islamic studies freedom of speech and Islam considers Islamic concepts of blasphemy apostasy and heresy and their applicability in the modern world

This book combines sociological theorising with studies on the Middle East and Islam the diversity of modernities that can be observed in our world is linked to the claim of living in a global modernity in a world society the book underpins this claim with numerous excursions into Islamic history it criticises the view that modernisation can be equated with Westernisation and considers different projects of specifically Islamic modernities as integral parts of world society from this perspective the study contributes to the provincialisation of European history in contemporary social scientific thought contrary to the theories of postcolonialism associated with the call for the provincialisation of Europe however this book adheres to essential traditions of classical sociology it thus aims to make a contribution to the social theoretical discussion on modernity which is empirically underpinned with the help of data from the history of the Middle East and Islam the translation was done with the help of artificial intelligence a subsequent human revision was done primarily in terms of content

this the first full length intellectual biography of the groundbreaking author of orientalism reveals some startling observations hussein argues that underneath said s carefully constructed eclecticism there is a global method in his work

the publication of edward said s orientalism in 1978 marks the inception of orientalism as a discourse since then orientalism has remained highly polemical and has become a widely employed epistemological tool three decades on this volume sets out to survey analyse and revisit the state of the orientalist debate both past and present the leitmotiv of this book is its emphasis on an intimate connection between art land and voyage orientalist art of all kinds frequently derives from a consideration of the land which is encountered on a voyage or pilgrimage a relationship which until now has received little attention through adopting a thematic and prosopographical approach and attempting to locate the fundamentals of the debate in the historical and cultural contexts in which they arose this book brings together a diversity of opinions analyses and arguments

the islamic orient studies the travel accounts of four british travelers during the nineteenth century through a critical analysis of these works the author examines and questions edward said s concept of orientalism and orientalist discourse his argument that the orientalist view had such a strong influence on westerners that they invariably perceived the orient through the lens of orientalism on the contrary the author argues no single factor had an overwhelming influence on them she shows that westerners often struggled with their own conceptions of the orient and being away for long periods from their homelands were in fact able to stand between cultures and view them both as insiders and outsiders the literary devices used to examine these writings are structure characterization satire landscape description and word choice as also the social and political milieu of the writers the major influences in the author s analysis are said foucault abdel malek and marie louise pratt

this book the image of the west in contemporary arab culture is distorted and devoid of friendliness because those who painted this image lacked free and independent thinking away from dogma or the influence of the old dominant powers in the arab region it is difficult to separate anti west and anti jews hence jews occupy a large portion of this book since it is the easiest and quickest way to demonize the west the book reviews the most prominent names that contributed to demonizing the west within the arab east over an entire century the list includes the names of writers poets translators singers and actors in theatre and cinema they reflect the level of thinking of the broad masses to this day one thing in common among these names is that they all conform and strengthen what already exists they reflect the level of thinking of the broad masses there is no one among them who thinks alone if one of them wants to say something he waits to hear it from millions before him here lie the biggest challenges facing arab culture the book discusses a large number of anti west jews and arab rulers texts furthermore the book

discusses films songs and television series the book includes seven studies on the challenges facing arab culture

during the decolonization period after world war ii edward said and other scholars identified and fought against orientalism the theory and practice of representing the east in western thought the 37 essays and excerpts reprinted here provide students and other readers with a cross section of the debate that has followed they are not indexed c book news inc

this book presents an in depth cultural and political analysis of the issue of political islam as a potential source of tensions and conflict and how this might be peacefully resolved looking at modernity from an islamic point of view the author analyses issues such as law knowledge and human rights

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