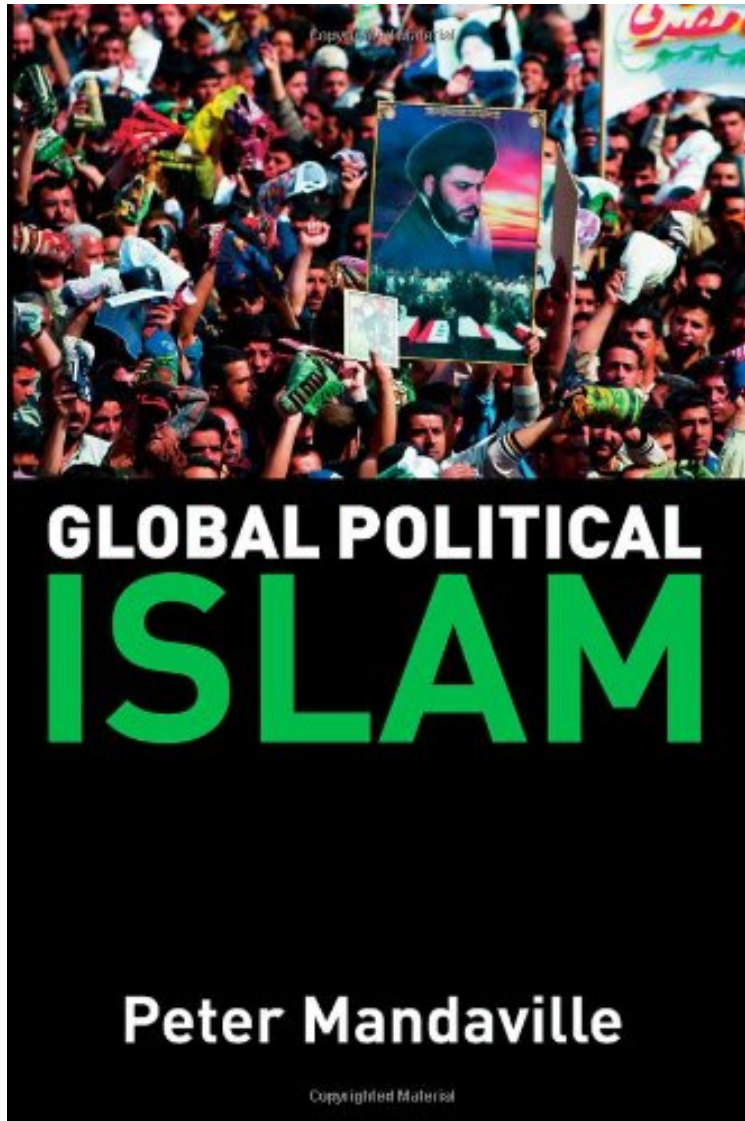


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Global Political Islam

Peter Mandaville

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work!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. good overview of political islamBy BruceThis is a first rate overview and summary of political islam, mainly in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. It summarizes the main movements in numerous countries/areas, and attempts to draw out themes with respect to the various interations between "Islamic" movements and political interaction within these areas and countries, as well as in the broader approach taken by the more global Islamic movements. It is an overview, and while it cites basic readings, secondary and occasionally primary sources, it does not delve deeply into the theoretical basis of political islam, or into the minutia of the history of these movements. However, the bibliography does provide a good source of references for furthur reading. The book is is not exhaustive: for example there is not much on the Islamic movements of India or what was Soviet Central Asia. It does presuppose a familiarity with Islam, in its various forms, and the recent (18th through 21st)century history of the Middle East and Islamic World. I detect no major bias: this is not a polemic, but a serious attempt at organizing and synthesizing a large body of information into a concise and readable form. With these caveats, I strongly recommend this book as a suitable introduction to Political Islam.

This book offers an accessible and comprehensive account of political Islam in the twenty-first century. Drawing on insights from comparative politics, sociology, international relations and Islamic studies, it explains the complex interaction between political Islam, nationalism, state and society, and globalization. An ideal teaching text, Global Political Islam also provides the necessary historical background and conceptual tools for understanding contemporary Muslim politics. The book contains detailed up-to-date case studies of political Islam in a variety of key settings such as Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and Palestine. It also explains the evolution of Islamic radicalism through a detailed account of Al Qaeda and the global jihad movement. Transnational Islamic networking receives considerable attention, as does the role of new media and information technologies in political Islam. Fully illustrated throughout, featuring maps, supplementary textbox case studies, a glossary, and suggestions for further reading, this is the ideal introduction to the crucial rule of political Islam in the contemporary world.

'Global Political Islam, is a well-informed account of the origins of mainstream Islamism, the strategies of Islamisation, the emergence of the radical fringe, the competition for authority among Muslim elites and the impact of globalisation on Muslim politics. This is a study which sets out to transcend the 'narrow moment' of al-Qaeda.' - The Economist "Mandavilles comprehensive and thoroughly thought-provoking book immediately highlights the de-historicised pitfalls of perspectives that overlook the complex history of mainstream, predominantly non-violent, Muslim politics, which clearly transcends the narrow moment of Al-Qaeda and the global jihad movement. Straight from the introduction, and repeatedly in the subsequent nine chapters, the readers attention is drawn to the inherent plurality and diversity of Muslim politics. The idea that there can be a single theory to account for political Islam is thoroughly dispelled, so that one may not speak of a singular Islamic fundamentalism today... The book laudably covers considerable ground in seeking to understand the nature of contemporary Muslim politics. Mandaville should be much commended for his effort to cover Muslim politics across such a vast range of settings, issues and actors. The book is approachable, clear and on the whole quite absorbing. It is a mini encyclopaedia of knowledge on Muslim Politics. I would recommend it to any student of the social sciences and humanities. For students of politics, and for readers specifically interested in Muslim politics, this study is certainly a thoroughly valuable resource." - Sham Qayyum SOAS, University of London; South Asia Research Vol. 29 (3), November 2009. 'Global Political Islam is the best panoramic view of Muslim politics today. With lucidity and insight, Peter Mandaville effortlessly explains the complexity of Islamism without becoming bogged down in jargon or narrowly defending one line of interpretation. He displays an equally impressive command of specific movements such as the Muslim Brotherhood and al-Qaida and critical issues such as globalisation, the crisis over the state, and competition over religious authority. It is difficult to imagine a more reliable or informed treatment of a shifting and ever widening Islamic landscape.' - James Piscatori, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, UK 'Peter Mandaville has produced a wonderful analysis of what political Islam represents and who speaks for it. Nuanced, erudite and encyclopedic, Global Political Islam provides a fresh perspective on how Islamic ideas, parties and actors shape Muslim society and politics from Southeast Asia to the British Midlands. This book will impress specialists and general readers alike.' - Vali Nasr, Fletcher School of Law Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA and author of The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future. 'Peter Mandavillehas patiently - and often brilliantly - exposed the limits of literalism and extremism as categories for analyzing Muslim extremists, i.e., those who seek to combine religious knowledge and political authority in the name of Allah. The battle for the hearts and minds of Muslims isably etched in this masterful study; it should be consulted by all who hope and work for a better future in the Middle East and beyond.' - Bruce Lawrence, Duke University, USAAbout the AuthorPeter Mandaville is Associate Professor of Government and Politics at George Mason University, USA. He is the author of Transnational Muslim Politics: Re-imagining the umma and has also co-edited several volumes of essays. Research interests include the impact of globalization in the Muslim world, theories of cosmopolitanism, and global development.