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The Shia Revival How Conflicts

The Shia Revival is a penetrating historical account of sectarian conflicts in the Muslim world, showing that the future rests in finding a peaceful solution to the ancient rivalries between the ...

The Shia Revival

Kashmir remains one of the world's most militarized areas of dispute, having been in the grips of an armed insurgency against India since the late 1980s. In existing scholarship, ideas of ...

Kashmir in the Aftermath of Partition

In the book "The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future," Vali Nasr, an Iranian-American researcher on the crises in the Middle East, came to the conclusion in 2006 that the ...

Is the Shiite revival here?

"The Taliban Revival" (Yale University Press ... In theory, a negotiated settlement with the insurgents is a necessary prerequisite for an end to the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. But the ...

Book Excerpt: 'The Taliban Revival' by Hassan Abbas

The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006); Madawi Al-Rasheed (ed.), Kingdom Without Borders: Saudi Political, Religious and Media ...

Islam in International Relations: From Al-Andalus to Afghanistan

Moreover, the reality is that Iran has made it clear that it will respond strongly to any attack on the Shia, Hazara population ... will result in a long term internal conflict in Afghanistan.

Untangling the Afghanistan knot

Islamic Leviathan: Islam and the Making of State Power. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. Nasr, Vali. The Shia Revival: How Conflicts Within Islam Will Shape the Future. New York: W.W. Norton, ...

Islam and Politics:

India's large Shia population has been an important variable ... Thus, both countries would like to avoid the revival of former animosity as neither stands to benefit from it.

India and Iran: Challenges and Opportunity

Thus far, the protests have taken place in Iraqi cities and provinces with Shia majorities ... While Iraq has remained gripped in sectarian conflicts and turmoil, the Kurds have continued to ...

Analysis: Is Iraq's uprising 'good or bad' for Kurds?

He has published numerous books, including "Democracy in Iran," "The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future," "The Islamic Leviathan: Islam and the Making of State Power," ...

Vali Nasr

Historic Christian and Jewish communities have been declining proportionally due to political and social conflict. Christianity has a long ... in the territory of contem porary Azerbaijan - Shia Islam ...

Christianity in North Africa and West Asia

a revival of the Mahdi Army created by the Shia religious leader Muqtada Al-Sadr. The "fourth strike" in the escalating exchange between the US and Tehran will set the contours of this ...

Iraq likely to be battleground of outside powers

Instead of playing a mediating role, the regional and international powers are contributing to the conflict by pursuing ... rule also served to isolate Shia-dominated Iran in Sunni-majority ...

Chaos in Afghanistan Threatens CPEC

With the revival of armed regional militias to stop ... Ata Muhammad - the same old faces that symbolise four decades of conflict in Afghanistan. The Taliban offensive in northern Afghanistan ...

Afghanistan is edging towards a new civil war

January 14, 2021: Both India and Pakistan are new (created since World War II) nations that could have done better. India is a functioning democracy but crippled by epic corruption. The British ...

India-Pakistan: Fragile States

Books of Interest The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War Nuclear Folly: A History of the Cuban Missile Crisis Cocktails from Hell: Five Complex Wars ...

Iran: Facts Do Not Matter

Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the influential Pakistani lawmaker who was the wife of one prime minister and mother of another, died Sunday at age 82, her family said. Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari ...

Topic: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

WITH the revival of armed regional militias to stop ... Ata Muhammad — the same old faces that symbolise four decades of conflict in Afghanistan. The Taliban offensive in northern Afghanistan ...

A New York Times Bestseller "Historically incisive, geographically broad-reaching, and brimming with illuminating anecdotes."—Max Rodenbeck, New York Review of Books Iranian-born scholar Vali Nasr has become one of America's leading commentators on current events in the Middle East, admired and welcomed by both media and government for his "concise and coherent" analysis (Wall Street Journal, front-page profile). In this "remarkable work" (Anderson Cooper), Nasr brilliantly dissects the political and theological antagonisms within Islam, providing a unique and objective understanding of the 1,400-year bitter struggle between Shias and Sunnis and shedding crucial light on its modern-day consequences.

Historically incisive, geographically broad-reaching, and brimming with illuminating anecdotes. Max Rodenbeck, Review of Book"

In his highly influential book *The Threatening Storm*, bestselling author Kenneth Pollack both informed and defined the national debate about Iraq. Now, in *The Persian Puzzle*, published to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis, he examines the behind-the-scenes story of the tumultuous relationship between Iran and the United States, and weighs options for the future. Here Pollack, a former CIA analyst and National Security Council official, brings his keen analysis and insider perspective to the long and ongoing clash between the United States and Iran, beginning with the fall of the shah and the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran in 1979. Pollack examines all the major events in U.S.-Iran relations—including the hostage crisis, the U.S. tilt toward Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war, the Iran-Contra scandal, American-Iranian military tensions in 1987 and 1988, the covert Iranian war against U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf that culminated in the 1996 Khobar Towers terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia, and recent U.S.-Iran skirmishes over Afghanistan and Iraq. He explains the strategies and motives from American and Iranian perspectives and tells how each crisis colored the thinking of both countries' leadership as they shaped and reshaped their policies over time. Pollack also describes efforts by moderates of various stripes to try to find some way past animosities to create a new dynamic in Iranian-American relations, only to find that when one side was ready for such a step, the other side fell short. With balanced tone and insight, Pollack explains how the United States and Iran reached this impasse: why this relationship is critical to regional, global, and U.S. interests; and what basic political choices are available as we deal with this important but deeply troubled country.

In *The Shia Revival*, Professor Nasr gives a penetrating and historical account of sectarian conflict in the Muslim world and argues that, although many in the West may see Iraq as the beginning of this violent struggle, this conflict actually dates back to 632 A.D. with the death of the prophet Muhammad and disagreements over who should be his successor. He writes that, "like the Protestant-Catholic conflict that marked the transition to modernity in the West, the Muslim world is undergoing a transformation between rival religious communities." While it's true that history and theology fuel the dispute, Professor Nasr tells us that the debate is less about doctrinal differences and more about the desire for political power and recognition.

Annotation By providing a new framework for understanding Shi'ite national politics in Lebanon, Roschanack Shaery-Eisenlohr recasts the relationship between religion and nationalism in the Middle East.

Time magazine listed him as one of its "100 People Who Shape Our World." Newsweek featured him on its cover under the headline "How Al-Sadr May Control U.S. Fate in Iraq." Paul Bremer denounced him as a "Bolshevik Islamist" and ordered that he be captured "dead or alive." Who is Muqtada al-Sadr, and why is he so vital to the future of Iraq and, arguably, the entire Middle East? In this compellingly readable account, prize-winning journalist Patrick Cockburn tells the story of Muqtada's rise to become the leader of Iraq's poor Shi'ites and the resistance to the occupation. Cockburn looks at the killings by Saddam's executioners and hit men of the young cleric's father, two brothers, and father-in-law; his leadership of the seventy-thousand-strong Mehdi Army; the fierce rivalries between him and other Shia religious leaders; his complex relationship with the Iraqi government; and his frequent confrontations with the American military, including battles that took place in Najaf in 2004. The portrait that emerges is of a complex man and a sophisticated politician, who engages with religious and nationalist aspirations in a manner unlike any other Iraqi leader. Cockburn, who was among the very few Western journalists to remain in Baghdad during the Gulf War and has been an intrepid reporter of Iraq ever since, draws on his extensive firsthand experience in the country to produce a book that is richly interwoven with the voices of Iraqis themselves. His personal encounters with the Mehdi Army include a tense occasion when he was nearly killed at a roadblock outside the city of Kufa. Though it often reads like an adventure story, Muqtada is also a work of painstaking research and measured analysis that leads to a deeper understanding both of one of the most critical conflicts in the world today and of the man who may well be a decisive voice in determining the future of Iraq when the Americans eventually leave.

As the world focuses on the conflict in Iraq, the most important political players in that country today are not the Sunni insurgents. Instead, they are Iraq's Shi'i majority—part of the Middle East's ninety million Shi'i Muslims who hold the key to the future of the region and the relations between Muslim and Western societies. So contends Yitzhak Nakash, one of the world's foremost experts on Shi'ism. With his characteristic verve and style, Nakash traces the role of the Shi'is in the struggle that is raging today among Muslims for the soul of Islam. He shows that in contrast to the growing militancy among Sunni groups since the 1990s, Shi'is have shifted their focus from confrontation to accommodation with the West. Constituting sixty percent of the population of Iraq, they stand squarely at the center of the U.S. government's attempt to remake the Middle East and bring democracy to the region. This groundbreaking book addresses the crucial importance of Shi'is to the U.S. endeavor. Yet it also alerts readers to the strong nationalist sentiments of Shi'is, underscoring the difficult challenge that the United States faces in attempting to impose a new order in the Middle East. The book provides a comprehensive historical perspective on Shi'ism, beginning with the emergence of the movement during the seventh century, continuing through its rise as a political force since the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1978-79, and leading up to the Iraqi elections of January 2005. Drawing extensively on Arabic sources, this comparative study highlights the reciprocal influences shaping the political development of Shi'is in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Lebanon, as well as the impact of the revival of Shi'ism on the larger Arab world. The narrative concludes with an assessment of the risks and possibilities arising from the assertion of Shi'i power in Iraq and from America's attempt to play an increasingly forceful role in the Middle East. A landmark book and a work of remarkable scholarship, *Reaching for Power* illuminates the Shi'a resurgence amid the shifting geopolitics of the Middle East.

A senior scholar of Islamic politics, providing a corrective to a dangerous gap in understanding, explores the true nature of contemporary Islamism and the essential ways in which it differs from the religious faith of Islam.

How the recent history of Lebanon provides insight into the many trials currently facing the larger Arab community. It is crucial to the interests of the West to grasp the complexities of the Arab world. In this clear, concise volume, Sandra Mackey provides a unique view of this tortured and tortuous region through the lens of Lebanon. A small, fractured country at the gateway of the Arab east, Lebanon signals the challenges that the Arab world poses to itself and to the West. As Mackey vividly demonstrates, the Lebanese have experienced every issue currently roiling the Middle East: borders contrived by others, a weak state housing weak institutions, a Palestinian presence, civil war, resistance to societal and political change, Sunni/Shia sectarianism, occupation, militant Islam as a political ideology, conflict over the common identity essential to turning a fragile state into a viable nation, a troubled democratic tradition, and war perpetrated by forces inside and outside its borders. Lessons learned from these conflicts will ease understanding and resolution elsewhere.

An accessible and comprehensive account of the global dimensions of political Islam in the twenty-first century, explaining political Islam, nationalism and globalization and providing a detailed account of Al Qaeda.

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