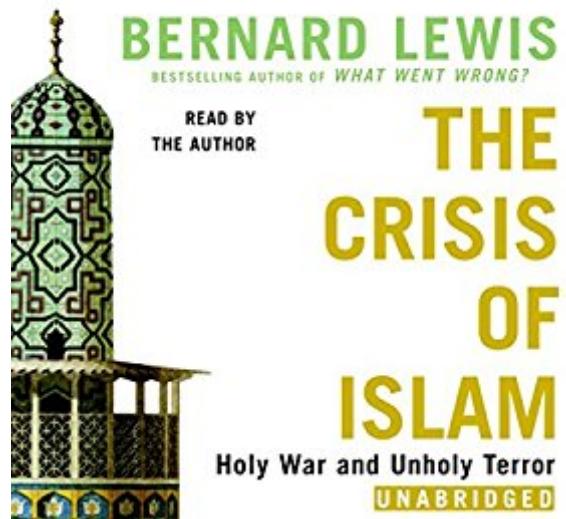


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The Crisis Of Islam: Holy War And Unholy Terror



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller Internationally recognized Middle East historian Bernard Lewis examines the historical roots of the resentments that dominate the Islamic world and are increasingly being expressed in acts of terrorism. Looking at the theological origins of political Islam and the rise of militant Islam, he charts the key events of the twentieth century leading up to the violent confrontations of today. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Princeton Professor Bernard Lewis is a master historian and an authority on the Middle East, particularly Islam. His insights on the Muslim religion and terrorism alone are worth the price of the book. It is well written and relatively easy to read. Through these brief pages, Bernard Lewis traces the history of Islam and some of its important tenets. He does a fantastic job at describing America's history and involvement against terrorism and Islam's hostile view against the US. He describes the reasons why Islamic terrorists vehemently despise America and seek her destruction. Quotes from the Qu'ran, Usama Bin Laden, and key terrorist leaders make this an interesting read. Bernard's grasp of global Islam helps put into perspective why terrorism is such a dominant force in the world today. It's a clarion call to all Americans, and one that cannot be ignored. This is the number one problem across the globe today. As stated in Bernard's final sentence, "If the fundamentalists (terrorists) are correct in their calculations and succeed in their war, then a dark future awaits the world." His words were virtually prophetic. After Lewis penned those words a dozen years ago, the

world is a much darker place today because of Islamic terrorists.

An excellent introduction to Islam for the neophyte who wants more than just a magazine article. The author is recognized as one of the most informed and prolific experts on the subject.

Bernard Lewis is one of the most respected Middle East experts, but unlike other writers who can make that claim he is also a noted historian rather than a journalist or retired military officer. His expertise is based on a lifetime of scholarship and is beyond question. Recently, he also hit the best seller list with "What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response," a collection of essays that are best appreciated by those with some prior knowledge of Islam and the Middle East. His latest work, "The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror," is also derived from previous essays and articles, but here Lewis has ably integrated earlier pieces into a single, and very readable, book. The purpose is clearly to provide a post-9/11 source on Islam and the Middle and their relationships with the West, especially the United States, that is accessible to those who are not experts in the study of these issues. Modest in length, this is still a detailed work that speaks with a unique authority. He may not map out possible strategies or policies, though he does have an in as an advisor to the Bush Administration, but he certainly tells us something about the thought processes, and the belief system of a culture that seems so alien to many Americans. In reference to the sources of terrorism that use Islam as justification he concludes that the West has every right to defend itself, but must also seek some "useful" understanding of the "forces" that "drive" these people. "The Crisis of Islam" works quite well in illustrating these "forces." Actually, Lewis is far more successful in explaining "what went wrong" in this volume than in his more celebrated, earlier work. If this work also becomes a bestseller it will be good news simply because it will mean that an increasing number of people are educating themselves about peoples, cultures, and problems that they know so little about.

Read 20 or 30 books on this subject. This book is the essential primer. It is the cliff notes so to speak.

I have always recognized that despite what I consider to be my wide readings in History, I had a significant knowledge deficiency with regard to the Middle East, and so I belatedly starting looking around for a relatively brief work which would provide at least some useful background in which to evaluate current world events. Having just read this small but incredibly informative book, I conclude

I found the right one. The other reader reviews have detailed the contents sufficiently that I just wish to add that this wonderfully concise and well-written work could not have been produced by someone lacking the profound knowledge of the subject and erudition of Professor Lewis, and that it would be as much of a pleasure to read purely as literature than for more prosaic purposes. If the motivations and objectives of Islamic terrorists are a little foggy in your mind, as they were in mine, do yourself a favor and buy this book ASAP. The only downside is that the story likely has no happy ending.

a good book, recommended by a friend.

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