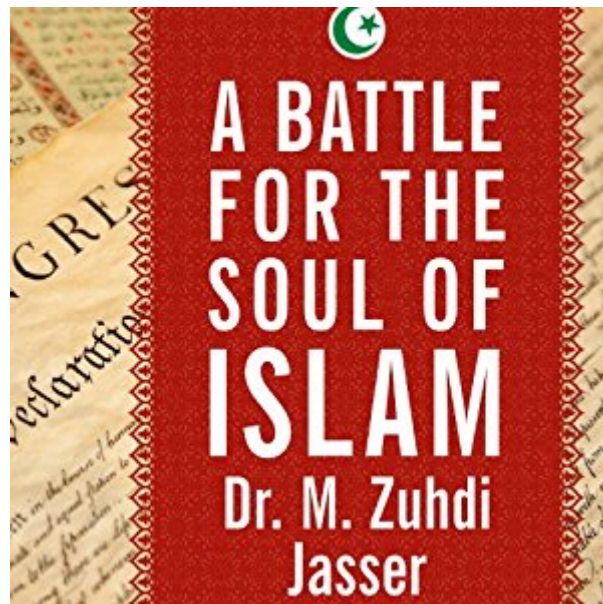


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A Battle For The Soul Of Islam: An American Muslim Patriot's Fight To Save His Faith



Synopsis

Among the unsettling social shifts in the wake of 9/11 was the global attention paid to Islam. Here in the United States, we became divided, often sadly along partisan lines, between those who believed every Muslim was a potential threat and those who believed no Muslim could do wrong. For conservative Wisconsin native and former U.S. Navy lieutenant commander Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, these radical times meant facing a new reality as a devout Muslim and a patriot - a certain betrayal within his faith, and a need to answer a question that crossed the minds of even the most sensitive and politically correct: "Can a good Muslim be a good American as well?" Jasser founded the American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD) to instill in young American Muslims an appreciation for the distinctively positive impact that this nation's ideals of liberty have had upon the world. As a nationally recognized expert on Muslim radicalization, he offers non-Muslims a definitive comprehension of the difference between Islam and the spiritual cancer known as Islamism, or political Islam, and how violence and extremism run counter to Islam's true teachings. As he persuasively argues, until we acknowledge the threat of Islamism in all its forms, the majority of Americans will be gulled into recognizing only the most obvious: terrorism. In *A Battle for the Soul of Islam*, Jasser embraces both his faith and his country while asking hard questions: Are American Muslim children learning entitlement as victims, or are they being taught individual responsibility and critical thinking? Are poisonous conspiracy theories dividing their American identity, or are they gaining exposure to reason, nationalism, and patriotism? Are Muslims publicly critical of the Islamist movements of the Middle East, or do they remain silent on aspects of religious doctrine that conflict with modernity and universal equality? Is the American press downplaying the seditious threat of homegrown Islamist radicalism and the influence of Islamists' propaganda arm on our governmental policies? Is our culture of political correctness a major obstacle toward long-overdue Muslim reform against Islamism? All these years after 9/11, it's time for us to understand the true threat of Islamism. It is a Muslim problem that needs a Muslim solution, and *A Battle for the Soul of Islam* builds a solid, balanced, and imperative must-listen foundation for the fight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Don't misjudge this book by negative reviews! Those can come from two sources. One is Islamist apologists who insist that Islam is a religion of peace. The other is persons who use their reviews to publicize their personal, typically caustic, view of Islam, Muhammad, and the Qur'an. By contrast, this book should be read by all persons in the West, non-Muslim and Muslim alike. The author, a physician, former U. S. Navy officer, and practicing Muslim, is a lone voice of truth for reforming Islam. This means disentangling the peaceful traditions of Islam from more contemporary efforts by "Islamists" to establish an Islamic world order ruled by their religious leaders. This obviously contrasts sharply with democratic and Constitutional Western governments. Unfortunately, Arabic patriarchal (father as ruler of family) tribal traditions that preceded Muhammad still control shariah (Islamic law) court interpretations, retaining male domination, thwarting gender equality, and opposing as shameful (for the family) all contemporary secular customs and practices. Although social scientists might question the morality of certain modern customs, let's not "throw out the baby with the bathwater." Widespread efforts at multiculturalism and political correctness perpetuate disregard of threats from Islamists as harmless. These two politically-inspired policies are the West's stumbling blocks to upholding each country's pride of heritage and cultural identity. Only as each country realizes its errors of attempted accommodations to Islamists' demands will that country be able to preserve its human rights and religious tolerance guarantees which earlier immigrants had always sought. Read Dr.

Despite my desire to stay away from online debates, having completed this book, I feel compelled to share my thoughts. Dr. Zuhdi Jasser (born 1967) is the founder of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD) and has dedicated his life to three things: helping to heal sick people (he is medical doctor), serving the country he loves (he was a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy), and battling the spokespeople and apologists for the movement he calls Islamism, or political Islam.

Jasser is a devout and strictly observant Muslim who prays five times a day, has never in his life consumed alcohol, and who reads from the Qur'an regularly. He is also as staunch an American patriot as they come. Part of his goal in this book is to demonstrate that there ought not be any conflict between his loyalty to Islam and his loyalty to and love of America. But what makes Jasser more unique is his refusal to serve as an apologist for those who advocate a violent or at least separatist interpretation of Islam. The majority of "mainstream" Muslim-American organizations (i.e. the ones sought after by the media and invited to the White House, etc.) are what Jasser calls "Muslim Brotherhood legacy groups." The Muslim Brotherhood gets its inspiration from the writings of Egyptian Sayyid Qutb (died 1966), who advocated a doctrine of Islamic supremacism and, ultimately, violence. Al Qaeda (and its late leader Osama bin Laden) is an ideological child of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) was named by the FBI as an unindicted co-conspirator of the Holy Land Foundation, a group with ties to Palestinian terrorist group Hamas. Yet CAIR has become the "voice" of American Islam. At least until Dr. Jasser entered the scene.

The Washington Post has described Zuhdi Jasser as "the most important American Muslim you've never heard of." If that assessment is true, it is probably because Jasser is embraced by leading conservative commentators as a hopeful voice challenging Islamic Jihad while being ignored by mainstream forces of political correctness who appear to be intimidated by any voice challenging the mantra that "Islam is a religion of peace." Jasser is under no illusions. Islam is in crisis mode, and without significant reform it will concretize as yet another totalitarian, violent ideology. Jasser, who served as a medical officer in the United States Navy, is the founder of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD). His organization attempts to hinder the attraction of young American Muslims to Islamic jihad while advocating the possibility of combining Islamic piety with acceptance of and support of American secular, constitutional law. Jasser likes America, and his love of this country was passed on to him by his father and grandfather, who dreamed of freedom and democracy in their country of origin, Syria--dreams that were never realized. They imparted to Zuhdi an understanding of Islam that has room for reason and an acceptance of government that is not tied to Islam (i.e. Sharia law). He writes of being brought up with an Islam that emphasized kindness, tolerance, and the exercise of reason. He takes issue with the other Islam--that of the Salafi extremists and "Islamists"--which seeks to impose Sharia law on other societies by whatever means necessary, be they violent or more subtle forms of cultural invasion and transformation. He admits that many allegedly "moderate" Muslims are actually activists and revolutionaries who

disingenuously pose as "reasonable" and culturally assimilated.

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