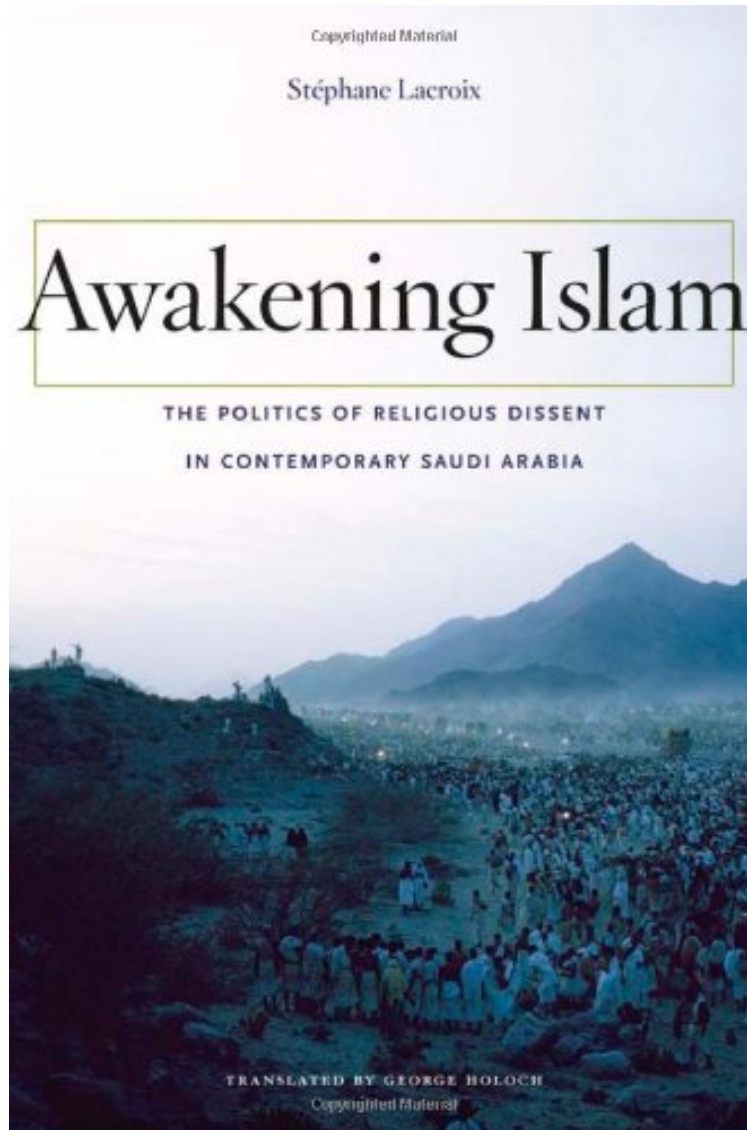


[FREE] Awakening Islam: The Politics of Religious Dissent in Contemporary Saudi Arabia

Awakening Islam: The Politics of Religious Dissent in Contemporary Saudi Arabia

Stéphane Lacroix

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1058948 in Books Harvard University Press 2011-04-15 2011-05-15 Original language: French PDF # 1 8.25 x 1.29 x 5.76l, 1.21 #File Name: 0674049640384 pages | File size: 42.Mb

Stéphane Lacroix : Awakening Islam: The Politics of Religious Dissent in Contemporary Saudi Arabia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Awakening Islam: The Politics of Religious Dissent in Contemporary Saudi Arabia:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Awakened me! By kingfire Awakening Islam is perhaps the best book written about the Islamic revival of Saudi Arabia in the middle of the 20th century. I read the Arabic translation of this

work. The author, Stephane, spent 6 years of his life researching this historical black hole. The book is extremely detailed, with extended biographies of many people from different social spaces, lots of dates, names, locations, and political and social theories. Stephane used a variety of sources, including, books, magazines, letters, official statements and statistics. However, due to the academic dishonesty of many pens during that time, and the rarity of the material, he heavily relied on personal interviews, which some might validly argue that it makes this book less reliable. Although enjoyable, this is not an easy read, especially if you are not familiar with Arabic names. Lots of the names mentioned in the book might confuse those who don't speak Arabic, and the historical facts about that time will shock many. The book is also not written in chronological order. It jumps back and forth in time because it is driven by the social groups and subgroups of that period rather than the historical narrative of the country. However, it only does that in a limited sense so that it never jumps too far ahead and leave the reader wondering what happened between the two points in time. Like many other academic books, this could have used better editing: the author tends to go into tangent topics in the middle of paragraphs. This breaks the flow of the book. This happens a lot when a new name is introduced. The author crams in a biography of that mentioned writer or clergy in the middle of a paragraph that describes a related idea. However, this simply might only be a problem of the translation I read. What distinguishes this book is the author's academic integrity: Stephane rarely does comment on the behaviors and ideas of the people of that period, no matter how absurd they seem. He paints a picture of what was taking place and let you--the reader-- judge it. This is why we know so little about this period of Saudi history despite how modern it is: many Arab and Islamic writers are immersed in their ideologies that they are willing to sacrifice their academic integrity in order to defend the ideologies. Despite its academic style and dense subject matter, this is a highly recommended journey into the history of the Islamic awakening in Saudi Arabia; an awakening that we Saudis still feel its effects today.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Academic and Interesting
By Will Jerom
A description and analysis of Islamist ideas that emerged in protest of the Saudi Government, *Awakening Islam* provides a very useful resource in understanding the religion and politics of Saudi Arabia. Focusing on the ideas of the Sahwa movement, composed of the ulema and academics of the Saudi Kingdom, it will probably be of much more use to advanced academics already familiar with the currents of radical Islam than to the introductory student. For me it shed some important light, but I would only recommend it for those who already had some background and familiarity with the religion and politics of the Saudi Kingdom.

3 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Religious Politics
By Mr. L. A. Spong
This book is an extremely detailed analysis of Islamic Social Development, in Saudi Arabia, from 1950 until 1980. It illustrates the weakness of leaders using moral concepts for political purposes.

Amidst the roil of war and instability across the Middle East, the West is still searching for ways to understand the Islamic world. Stéphane Lacroix has now given us a penetrating look at the political dynamics of Saudi Arabia, one of the most opaque of Muslim countries and the place that gave birth to Osama bin Laden. The result is a history that has never been told before. Lacroix shows how thousands of Islamist militants from Egypt, Syria, and other Middle Eastern countries, starting in the 1950s, escaped persecution and found refuge in Saudi Arabia, where they were integrated into the core of key state institutions and society. The transformative result was the Sahwa, or Islamic Awakening, an indigenous social movement that blended political activism with local religious ideas. *Awakening Islam* offers a pioneering analysis of how the movement became an essential element of Saudi society, and why, in the late 1980s, it turned against the very state that had nurtured it. Though the Sahwa Insurrection failed, it has bequeathed the world two very different, and very determined, heirs: the Islamo-liberals, who seek an Islamic constitutional monarchy through peaceful activism, and the neo-jihadis, supporters of bin Laden's violent campaign. *Awakening Islam* is built upon seldom-seen documents in Arabic, numerous travels through the country, and interviews with an unprecedented number of Saudi Islamists across the ranks of today's movement. The result affords unique insight into a closed culture and its potent brand of Islam, which has been exported across the world and which remains dangerously misunderstood.

Based on intimate knowledge of the militants, Lacroix's pioneering analysis of the history and politics of Saudi Islamists is, and will remain, a classic. (Gilles Kepel, author of *Jihad and Beyond* and *Terror and Martyrdom*) *Awakening Islam* is the benchmark against which books on the vital intersection between religion and politics in Saudi Arabia will now be measured. It sheds light not only on Saudi Arabia, but on the fluid undercurrents of religious politics in many neighboring countries. (Dale F. Eickelman, Dartmouth College) An extraordinary contribution that reshapes our understanding of Saudi Arabia and of Islamic politics in the Middle East. Lacroix takes us deep inside the evolution of the Sahwa and its competitors in Saudi Arabia, with unprecedented access to participants and a close reading of a vast array of rare sources. (Marc Lynch, Director, Institute for Middle East Studies, George Washington University) The Sahwa movement played a crucial role in shaping politically-oriented religious discourse in Saudi Arabia and beyond. Yet the movement is little understood and its ideas much misinterpreted. Lacroix's dispassionate, far-reaching and well-informed analysis provides an essential resource for the understanding of this critical phenomenon. (Tim Niblock, University of Exeter) Al-Sahwa Al-Islamiyya or "Islamic Awakening" was one of the most powerful social movements

in the history of Saudi Arabia. It is also one of the least documented--until now. Stéphane Lacroix tells the story of this movement in his splendid new book...Lacroix's study is timely and original. Serious students of Saudi Arabia need to read this important book. They will be enlightened by it and moved to seek more knowledge about the Kingdom. (Joseph Richard Preville *Saudi Gazette* 2011-03-20)A timely work, especially when read against the backdrop of antigovernment demonstrations taking place across the Middle East and North Africa today. (Christopher McConnell *Booklist* 2011-04-15)Awakening Islam is a product of serious scholarly interpretive and linguistic skills. (Madawi Al-Rasheed *Times Higher Education* 2011-04-21)Looking at the Muslim misfits of the past half-century and how many received refuge in Saudi Arabia, Parisian professor Stéphane Lacroix argues that the resulting movement has yielded two opposing camps--the Islamo-liberals and the neo-jihadis, both headquartered out of that Islamic heartland. (Asma Gull Hasan *Publishers Weekly* 2011-04-27)Little attention is paid to Saudi Arabia's internal Islamist movements. During the decades before the 1990s, the kingdom actively fostered the Sahwa, or "Islamic awakening," a movement led by local activists that was as political as it was religious. In his meticulously researched book, Stéphane Lacroix provides an exhaustive history of the Sahwa, detailing the movement's original constituents--Muslim migrants fleeing persecution from other states in the region--and its importance to the Saudi social and political spheres. For decades, Saudi leaders supported the group's activities, even though their ideas were not entirely in line with state-sanctioned Wahhabism. This ended when Saddam Hussein invaded the country in 1990. The Saudis' reliance on American military assistance expedited the Sahwa's radicalization and ultimately led to its downfall. Among the splinters that remained were a group of neo-Jihadis who turned against the kingdom's rulers and stood behind Osama bin Laden's philosophy of holy war. Lacroix's authoritative history sheds light on how this homegrown movement became influential throughout the region and created some blowback of its own. (Atossa Abrahamian *The Daily* 2011-05-01)Awakening Islam is bound to be the definitive account of how the Muslim Brotherhood took root in the kingdom and reshaped its religious landscape. (David Commins *Christian Century* 2012-01-25)Awakening Islam is an astonishingly rich, detailed analysis of the fascinating world of Saudi Islamism. The young French scholar Stéphane LaCroix spent significant time in Saudi Arabia, and got deep inside the competing networks that have shaped Saudi Arabia's distinctive Islamist milieu. He unpacks the role of Muslim Brothers and Salafis and their sometimes-uneasy relationship with the state. He carefully traces the evolution of the Sahwa (Awakening) networks, and how they both carried political dissent and restructured the pathways of political mobilization. And while he certainly pays attention to militant jihadism and the worldview which helped spawn al-Qaeda, that does not overwhelm his broader analytical mission. This book is simply an extraordinary accomplishment, and should be required reading for anyone interested in the politics of Islam. (Marc Lynch *Foreign Policy* 2011-12-26)About the AuthorStéphane Lacroix is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Sciences Po, Paris.