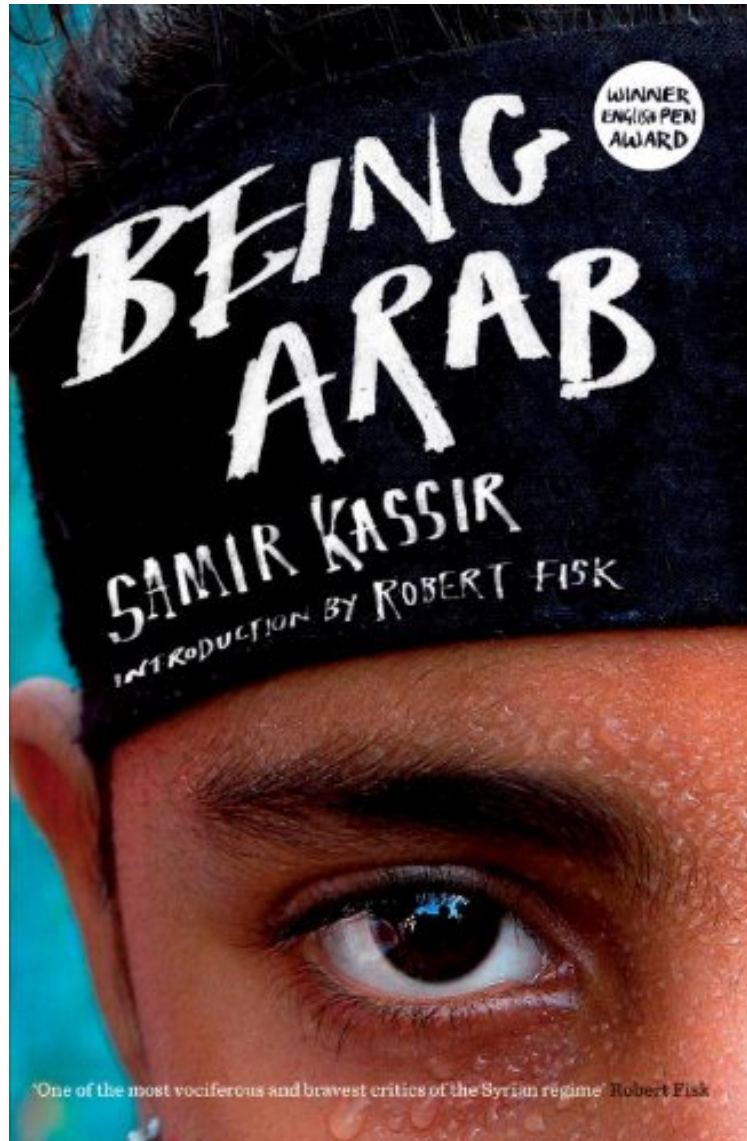


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Being Arab

Samir Kassir

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#1097676 in Books 2013-03-12 2013-03-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.78 x .37 x 5.141, .30 #File Name: 1844672808112 pages | File size: 57.Mb

Samir Kassir : Being Arab before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Being Arab:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting book on the current situation of the Arab world and Arab identity; a call for reflection and examination By J. P. A quick read, compelling, and very relevant. It contains an introduction by Robert Fisk with the title, "Who killed Samir Kassir?" Kassir was assassinated on June 2, 2005, presumably for his work as a journalist. He died outside his home as a result of a car bomb. Kassir argues in this book

that the Arab world is neither static and unchanging nor regressing towards fanaticism. Not only was there the Islamic civilization's flourishing between the 7th and 11th centuries that was one of the richest periods in human history, but that in more modern times the Arab world has continued to contribute to humanity in ways that should be celebrated, and that this occurred while the Arab world was also changing, adapting, and modernizing. His book calls on the West to stop controlling and subjugating the Arab region (echoing the period of colonialism/imperialism) and on Arabs to give up a sense of victimhood and/or impending doom and instead "finally see our real history, so that we can then be true to it" (p.92). Kassir writes, "The despairing view of Arab thought and culture as permanently ensnared in conservatism and fanaticism has obscured several phenomena that could prepare a way out of the crisis" (p.87). I think he does a very good job of fairly and accurately portraying the difficulties that have led to the present situation. Kassir has written a "call to arms" - but in this case, it is a call for thought and examination - on Arab identity: "It is not just the West that needs to re-examine its stance. The Arab world in particular needs to make a profound effort to eradicate the ambiguities that encourage a logic of cultural confrontation" (p.86). A good quote: "We must not confuse terrorism with resistance, as the West confuses resistance with terrorism" (p.86). 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book on the Arab world's current attitude to modernity. By Haik Sahakian. The point of the book is that the Arab world should realize that they are a part of modernity, not opposed to it. Kassir says that by doing this it will make it easier for Arab society to move on from the current sense of victimhood which is holding it back. I thought the book was a concise, easy read for such a complex subject. Kassir's opinions are way more interesting than anything you see on TV. I'm surprised by the cover art of the latest paperback edition, which doesn't match the book's message very well. I'd get the hardback edition. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Customer. Great Book by Samir Kassir. Thoroughly enjoyable.

Before his assassination in 2005, Samir Kassir was one of Lebanon's foremost public intellectuals. In *Being Arab*, a thought-provoking assessment of Arab identity, he calls on the people of the Middle East to reject both Western double standards and Islamism in order to take the future into their own hands. Passionately written and brilliantly argued, this rallying cry for change has now been heard by millions.

This is an unusual book of such fluent and searing honesty that I almost wanted Samir Kassir to be kinder to himself. I salute his memory. John Pilger. One of Lebanon's most prominent journalists and one of the most vociferous and bravest critics of the Syrian regime. Robert Fisk. Shortly before his death, Kassir published a remarkable essay exploring what he termed the Arab malaise of the twenty-first century. It reflected the disenchantment of Arab citizens with their corrupt and authoritarian governments. Eugene Rogan, author of *The Arabs: A History*. Part historical essay and part political pamphlet ... This is a genuine cry against the forces of Islamic extremism. *New Statesman*. About the Author. Samir Kassir (1960-2005) was a columnist for the daily newspaper *An-Nahar*, wrote regularly for *Le Monde Diplomatique*, and published a number of important works in French as well as Arabic. He was killed by a car bomb in Beirut on June 2, 2005.