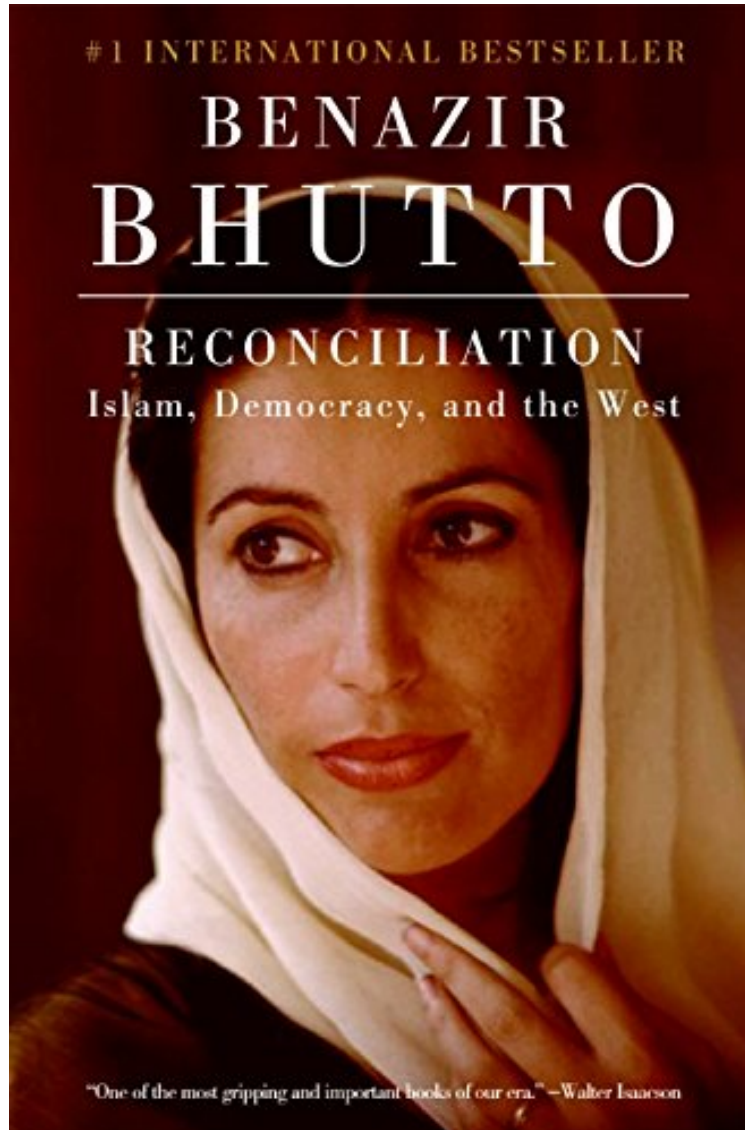


[Free] Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West

Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West

Benazir Bhutto

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#846656 in Books Benazir Bhutto 2008-12-23 2008-12-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .88 x 6.00l, .94 #File Name: 0061567590352 pages Reconciliation Islam Democracy and the West | File size: 78.Mb

Benazir Bhutto : Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly RecommendedBy Will JeromThis book is an excellent expression of "liberal Islam", a view of the Muslim religion that is essentially democratic, tolerant, and compatible with most other values cherished in the West. Bhutto points out that democracy (or the desire for it) is a more

universal desire, not owned by either East or West. Her tolerant, hopeful expression is a most welcome and refreshing change from the predominantly negative image of radical Islamism. Bhutto points out that the radicals have subverted and perverted the mainstream Muslim view, and offers arguments from the Quran and from modern scholarly research to show that Islam can thrive in a modern, democratic world, if Muslims make the right choices and the West helps (rather than thwarts) those efforts. She convincingly confronts and refutes the "Clash of Civilization" hypothesis of Samuel Huntington, and offers a more positive track towards reconciliation. Her argument about women's equality dodges a few critical verses of the Quran, but overall her view is compelling and engaging. It is a great tragedy for all that her voice was silenced by radicals, but as the afterword indicates her hope and vision still lives on in the hearts of others. I strongly recommend this book. (and incidentally, the other reviewer's claim that her father was the corrupt architect of two wars is patently false. Her father was not in office when those wars were fought. Yahya Khan was still in power during the Bangladesh separation, how can Zulfikar be blamed? Zulfikar was put to death by Zia al-Haq. Apparently some have no command of historical facts.)

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Peace is Possible
By Alice T
This book that she finished days before she was killed, quotes the Koran to show that Islam is an open, pluralistic, and tolerant religion. It has been hijacked by extremists like Osama bin Laden who "exploit, manipulate and militarize Islam." More importantly she argues that Islam and the West do not need to be headed on a collision course toward a "clash of civilizations." People of the region do want democracy, yet the United States' role in helping to overthrow the democratically elected government of Iran in 1953, and many other short-sighted interventions, made generations of Muslims suspicious and cynical about Western motivations. However, she doesn't place all the blame on the legacy of Western colonialization in the Middle East. She asks Islam to heal the Shia-Sunni schism, encourage and provide support for emerging democracies, and get the religious extremists out of power.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Read Which is Well Worth Your Time and Thought.
By Ben W. Washburn
As our nation continues to become engaged in the unending conflicts of Muslim countries, this book presents some hope that these conflicts are not totally a bottomless pit. There are hundreds of millions of moderate-thinking Muslims. But it only takes the 5% lunatic fringe to push us toward a possible nuclear disaster. Benazir Bhutto was one of the few moderates who had the guts to speak out against these radicals. But they also silenced her by assassination, which is their traditional method of pushing their extreme agenda.

Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan in October 2007, after eight years of exile, hopeful that she could be a catalyst for change. Upon a tumultuous reception, she survived a suicide-bomb attack that killed nearly two hundred of her compatriots. But she continued to forge ahead, with more courage and conviction than ever, since she knew that time was running out for the future of her nation and for her life. In *Reconciliation*, Bhutto recounts in gripping detail her final months in Pakistan and offers a bold new agenda for how to stem the tide of Islamic radicalism and to rediscover the values of tolerance and justice that lie at the heart of her religion. She speaks out not just to the West but also to the Muslims across the globe. Bhutto presents an image of modern Islam that defies the negative caricatures often seen in the West. After reading this book, it will become even clearer what the world has lost by her assassination.

From *Booklist* Just days prior to her assassination, the late former prime minister of troubled Pakistan completed the manuscript of this book, which held great personal importance to her. Its importance extends beyond the writer's own sense of purpose and accomplishment, however, because it is a vastly significant document for anyone seeking to understand the nature of past and contemporary Islam and its current interface with the West. The reconciliation to which the book's title refers is Bhutto's chief thesis: two critical tensions . . . must be reconciled to prevent the clash of civilizations—the first of these tensions is internal to Islam (extremism vs. moderation) and the second involves Islam's relations with the non-Islamic world (confrontation or cooperation). Her intense, learned discussion of the concept of jihad, her careful explication of the Quran's true position on women's equality, and her helpful pointing out of the theological differences between Sunni and Shia Muslims, among other relevant and eloquent analyses, lead her to insist that democracy and Islam are not only compatible but mutually sustaining. Within a chapter on the history of the relatively new country of Pakistan lies an autobiographical section in which the author details her terms in office as prime minister and the difficulties she was personally and purposefully handed by her adversaries. This book is an eloquent plea, a passionate admonition, that reconciliation as she has outlined it must indeed occur. --Brad Hooper

It is impossible to understand today's world without knowing Pakistan; and impossible to understand Pakistan without reading this book. A courageous woman tragically killed speaks to us of reconciliation. We owe it to her and to ourselves to listen, comprehend, and act. (Madeleine Albright)

This is one of the most gripping and important books of our era. It's a brilliant manifesto for challenging radical Islam. Benazir Bhutto was an intense but charming woman driven by a crucial mission. Her death makes this beautiful book all the more poignant, and also more necessary. (Walter Isaacson)

This is a courageous and powerful answer to hatred and intolerance, written by an extraordinary woman. Reading Benazir Bhutto's *Reconciliation* shows just how much we lost with her death. You'll finish it and mourn for what might have been. (Arianna Huffington)

Benazir Bhutto will go down in history as a courageous leader who risked and lost her life in the service not only of her nation, but of values shared by us all. Anyone interested in

Pakistan, democracy, or Islam should read this fascinating and important book. (Joe Biden) Benazir Bhuttos book is a powerful and insightful analysis of the formidable challenges that confronted an extraordinary woman who paid the ultimate price for daring to attempt to bring democracy to Pakistan. President Kennedy would have called her a Profile in Courage. (Ted Kennedy) Pakistan has become the critical battlefield in the so-called war on terror. Reconciliation is the story of a courageous woman and her struggle for democracy and moderation in Islam. Benazir Bhutto, not the extremists who killed her, represented the vast majority of Pakistani Muslims. (Peter Galbraith) This book is an eloquent reflection of traits which defined the life of Benazir Bhutto: an unshakable optimism about the future, a firm belief in the power of dialogue, and a commitment to democracy. The strength of her message of hope underscores how much was lost in her tragic death. (Nancy Pelosi) About the Author Benazir Bhutto was the prime minister of Pakistan from 1988 to 1990 and from 1993 to 1996, and the chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party. Born in 1953 in Karachi, Bhutto was the first woman ever to lead a Muslim state. She lived in exile from 1999 until her return to Pakistan in October 2007, two months before her assassination.