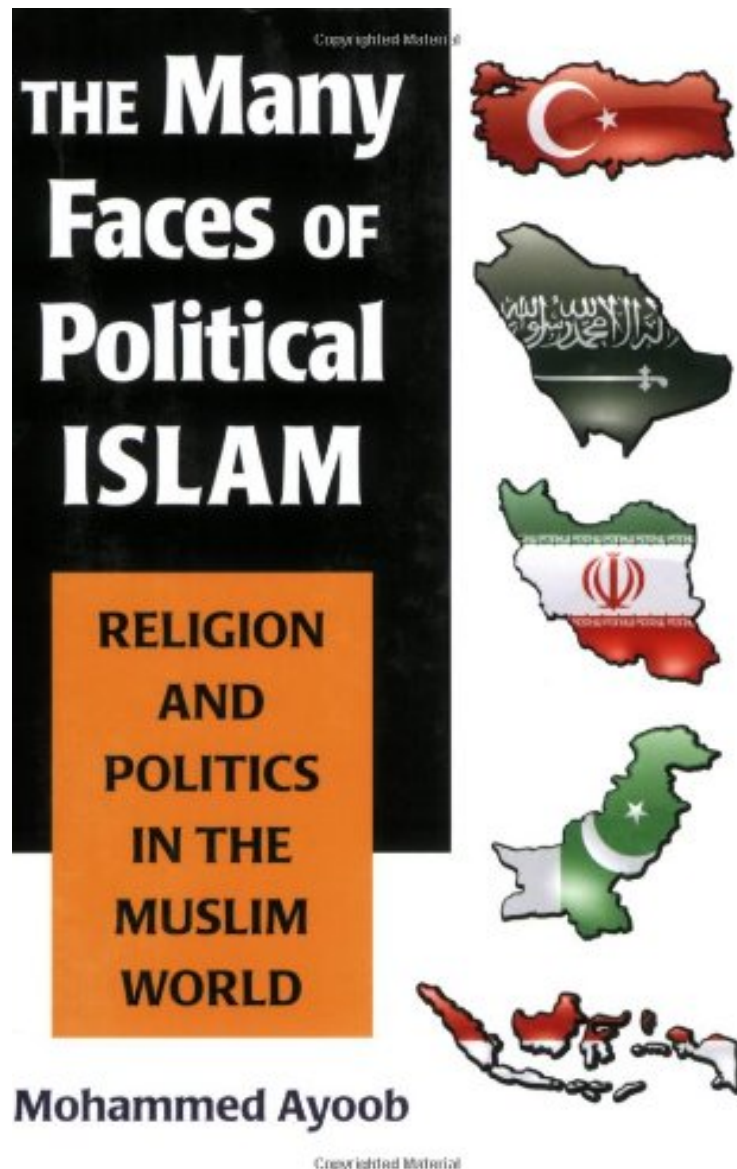


# The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World

Mohammed Ayoob

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**Mohammed Ayoob : The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Three and a Half Stars  
By Will Jerom  
Content Summary: Ayoob's book reviews the many political faces of Islam over several countries: Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Lebanon among them. He demonstrates that there is no one monolithic understanding of Islam the world-over, and that politically also there is also a diverse array of movements in Islam, from the democratic (such as Turkey), to the fringe terror groups such as Al-Qaeda (whose impact he says, on Islam, is actually quite limited). His intention was to write an introductory text on Islam and Politics, and in this he partially succeeds. It is a good book, but not necessarily accessible for beginning readers.

Analytical Review: I have to commend Ayoob for a deft and subtle understanding the nuances in religion and politics all over the Islamic world. Readers should be persuaded that there is in fact no one singular Islamic religious or political world-view, and that there is quite some diversity in the approaches and challenges Muslims today are facing. Ayoob is strongest in his analytical overview (the how and why) but weakest in his concrete, historical overview (the who, what, and when). Quite frankly, I suspect many students who are novices who read this book will become lost in many places. For example, he assumes contextual knowledge of major figures such as Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, without giving them more than line or two. The Shah's overthrow, our support for the coup against Mossadeq, get only a line or two also - this knowledge is assumed not imparted, as is knowledge of Khomeini, Sadat, etc. In short he assumes a lot more concrete historical knowledge of Islamic societies than he actually relays, and this will unfortunately detract from the important impact of his thesis. Experts, go ahead and read - but novices I'd advise you to read up on your history first.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
Very informative  
By Gaby Chapman  
This is a fascinating book on the major political differences in select examples of predominantly Muslim countries. The author states that he has written this book to make the subject easier to understand for the layman, but it is still a book that benefits from careful reading and re-reading

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Thalia Abisaiit  
it is a good book and I really benefited when I wrote my assignment at college.

Analysts and pundits from across the American political spectrum describe Islamic fundamentalism as one of the greatest threats to modern, Western-style democracy. Yet very few non-Muslims would be able to venture an accurate definition of political Islam. Mohammed Ayoob's *The Many Faces of Political Islam* thoroughly describes the myriad manifestations of this rising ideology and analyzes its impact on global relations.

"Dr. Ayoob addresses the nuances and complexities of political Islam - be it mainstream, radical, or militant - and offers a road map of the pivotal players and issues that define the movement. There is no one as qualified as Mohammed Ayoob to write a synthesis of various manifestations of political Islam. His complex narrative highlights the changes and shifts that have taken place within the Islamist universe and their implications for internal Muslim politics and relations between the world of Islam and the Christian world." - Fawaz A. Gerges, Carnegie Scholar, holds the Christian A. Johnson Chair in Middle East and International Affairs at Sarah Lawrence

About the Author  
Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor of International Relations at Michigan State University.