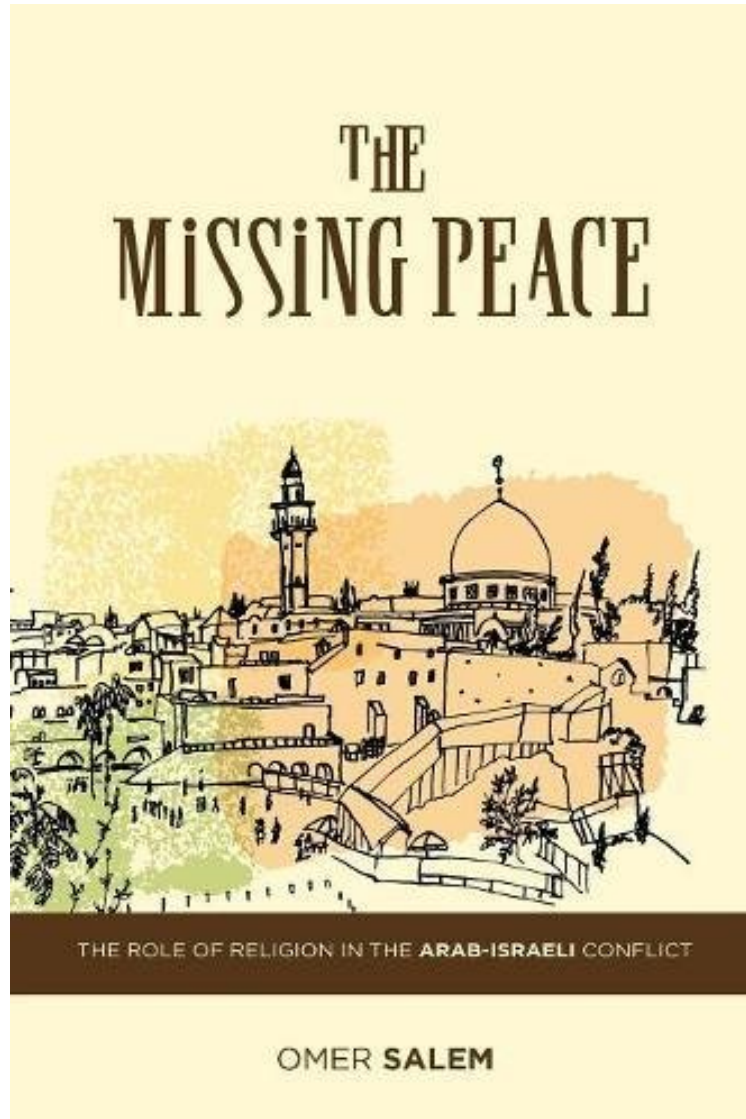


The Missing Peace: The Role of Religion in the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Omer Salem

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Omer Salem : The Missing Peace: The Role of Religion in the Arab-Israeli Conflict before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Missing Peace: The Role of Religion in the Arab-Israeli Conflict:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Religion and the Change of Hearts By Charles R. Paul This is a unique piece of work. It speaks to Muslim traditionalists, but let's the reader eavesdrop on the real 'insider' issues. Because scriptural authority has been used to justify contempt for Jews, Muslim leaders can only change attitudes by

using scriptural authority to justify respect for Jews. This is the missing piece in the problem. Hearts and minds of young Arab Muslims can be moved by religious leaders and parents that use their scriptures to say Allah requires us to treat the Jews as our respected cousins. Only then will the real desire for peaceful negotiations replace the current ambivalence that keeps cold war (and worse) alive. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Myth of Equality Under Islam By Harold Reisman This Muslim author takes selective excerpts from the Islamic religious literature and states that these selected citations are all of Islam. Nothing could be further from the truth. While his hopes and dreams are worthwhile, they are based on his beliefs, not those of Islam or the religious leaders who teach and preach Islam. He never cites the Pact of Umar and somehow conflates dhimmitude with peaceful co-existence. Indeed, if a kufar is willing to live as a dhimmi, all would be well, However, that is not a state of religious equality. One should read the extensive literature by Bat Ye'or on this subject for an adequate historic review. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A clear way forward By Customer Standing tall like a lighthouse - honestly - on a cliff over turbulent seas, this book illuminates a pathway for genuine reconciliation between the Jewish and Arab peoples. Dr. Salem argues for taking a fresh look at the foundational principles of both cultures - particularly their sacred religious texts - as the best way to encourage open discussion and to arrive at a safe and reliable process for mutual accommodation. He reminds us that both peoples have lived quite amicably with each other throughout most of their history and that they simply need to start over again and relearn what amounts to a close family relationship. For anyone who has an active interest in seeing a just and lasting peace come to the Holy Land - and that should include everyone - this book provides important and valuable insights and a clear blueprint for action.

Egypt in the sixties and seventies for the Salem family was a balance between keeping Islamic tradition at home and attending the secular system of public schools, which would provide us with the best of opportunities, and form us into what my parents considered model Muslims. Both traditional Islamic practice and a breadth of scholarship were to be revered, in line with the great Islamic thinkers that always inspired us like Imam Mohamed Abdu and M. Rashid Reda. I was first exposed to other cultures and peoples when I traveled on foot and auto-stop on a forty-day journey to Europe in the summer of 1974. I was only fourteen at the time, but that journey taught me many valuable lessons, including the importance of being independent, self-sufficient, relating to others and understanding between cultures and people. That journey to Europe was followed by three more journeys to Europe and the Middle East for the following three summers, before our family emigrated and settled in California in the late seventies. Having lived in three different countries on three different continents, I have had no choice but to consider many different points of view, not only in my own acclimation from Egyptian to American culture, and then to Indian culture and back to American, but in my desire to understand the Middle East conflict at its root. Many of my relatives and friends still reside in Egypt. Therefore, my interest in solving the conflict is both on an ideological and personal level. My personal and global journey included study at Berkeley and Stanford universities, after which I established myself in a real estate investment business. I then embarked on a trek to the Indian subcontinent, where I spent some time with the pacifist Muslim Tablighi Jamaat movement and experienced again a taste of wandering, joined with outreach to other Muslims and simplicity in living. My passion for solving the conflicts in the Middle East led me to pursue a masters degree at Yale Divinity School, then a PhD defended at AlAzhar University, Cairo, Egypt, which I was granted in 2015.