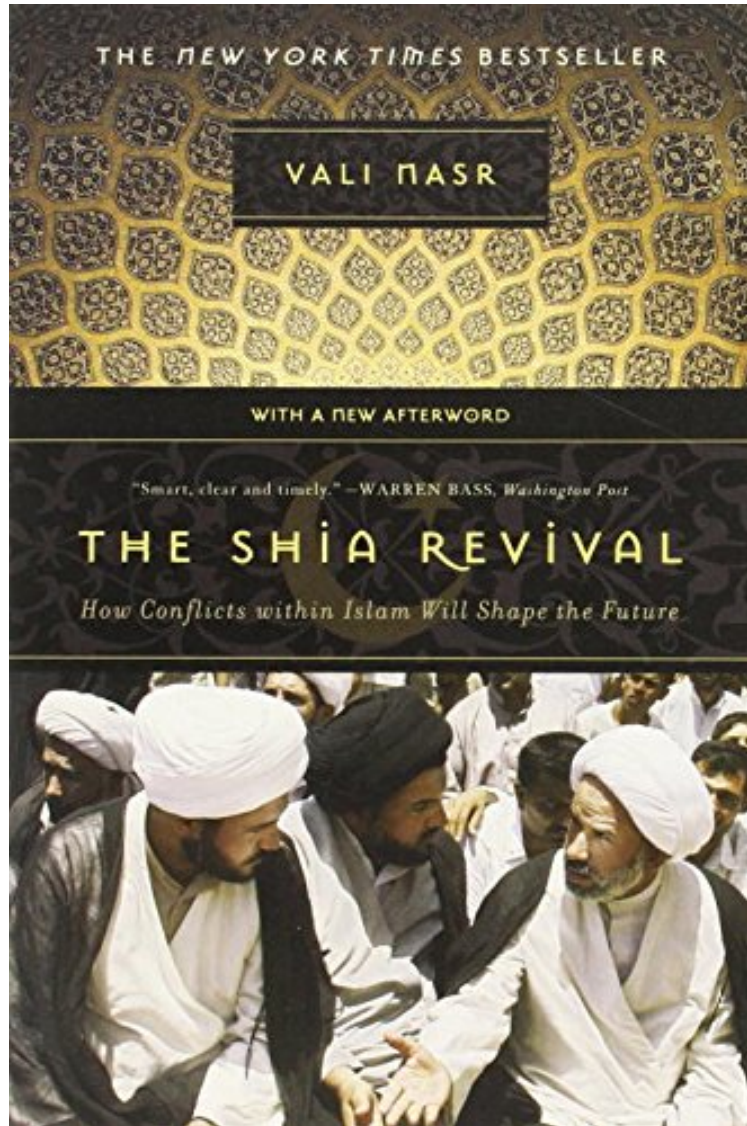


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## The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future

Vali Nasr

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#612531 in Books Nasr, Vali 2007-04-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 5.60l, .65 #File Name: 0393329682320 pages | File size: 33.Mb

**Vali Nasr : The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Book ReviewBy DMAThe Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future by Vali Nasr argues The reality that will shape the future of the Middle East is not the debates over democracy or globalization that the Iraq war was supposed to have jumpstarted but the conflicts between Shias and Sunnis. Not only does Nasr supply ample evidence to make this book accessible to both academic and less

formal audiences, he supports his assertions with a mix of primary and secondary sources. Sprinkled with dialogue from Iraqi war generals and ample use of secondary sources centered around historical Shia and Sunni events, Nasr's work is both compelling and riveting, offering an unparalleled look into the deeply layered world, and the ancient conflict between the Shia and Sunnis in the Middle East. This is both an enlightening and an emotional treasure to explore. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How the Shia revival will shape our future

By Customer

In Vali Nasr's book *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future*, he addresses an issue that is gaining increased importance in the modern analysis of global Islam: Sunni and Shia relations and which he also states is going to shape our future. Vali Nasr, a Middle East scholar, writer, foreign policy adviser and commentator in international relations describes how Shia and Sunni differs from each other and how U.S military actions towards the war against Saddam and Iraq, and the willingness to expand democracy to the world the east countries, might lead to a Shia resistance. This is a world portrayal that offers an understanding of the ancient conflicts and the struggle that Middle East is facing within the world of the Muslim religion. Nasr points out US involvement in this situation and how US as a country have to gain more knowledge and respect towards this world dilemma and conflict that effects more people that a person without the knowledge in the subject wouldnt have known about. Nasr goes from talking about history to our present situation and how we need to act in the future, What is clear is that the future for the Middle East will not be brighter than the past so long as the shadow of sectarian conflict hangs over it. This is the conflict that will shape the future (Vali Nasr). This is a book that should be read by anyone who does not have the knowledge about the Shia difference. Nasr writes in a way that make it easy to understand and he approaches the subject in a way that makes it very interesting and makes one think about our current situation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and respected periodicals like Newsweek and Smithsonian

By Matthew J Barrett

In *The Shia Revival*, Vali Nasr argues that the United States of America must rethink foreign policies regarding the Middle East, as the Muslim world is a changing climate. To support this argument, Vali Nasr has meticulously researched the majority of *The Shia Revival*, using sources such as well-respected newspapers (The Washington Post, The New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times, for example), PhD dissertations from respected institutions, books published by those same institutions presses, Human Rights Watch Reports, and respected periodicals like Newsweek and Smithsonian. While Nasr uses a myriad of exceptional sources in support of each chapters central theme, *The Shia Revival* does rely quite a bit on the authors own unvalidated firsthand reports. Another issue facing *The Shia Revival* is that it would best be prefaced by a rudimentary understanding of Islamic leaders and customs. While I did enjoy the book, I had a very difficult time following the overwhelming cast of characters of the Islamic world. In general, the book would be a great read for those highly interested in, if a bit uninformed of, the issues facing the current climate of the Muslim world.

A New York Times Bestseller "Historically incisive, geographically broad-reaching, and brimming with illuminating anecdotes." Max Rodenbeck, New York Review of Books Iranian-born scholar Vali Nasr has become one of America's leading commentators on current events in the Middle East, admired and welcomed by both media and government for his "concise and coherent" analysis (Wall Street Journal, front-page profile). In this "remarkable work" (Anderson Cooper), Nasr brilliantly dissects the political and theological antagonisms within Islam, providing a unique and objective understanding of the 1,400-year bitter struggle between Shias and Sunnis and shedding crucial light on its modern-day consequences.

From Publishers Weekly One of the least remarked upon aspects of the war in Iraq, at least in the American press, has been how conflict and instability in that country have shaken the delicate balance of power between Sunni and Shia throughout the wider region. Nasr, professor of Middle East and South Asia politics at the Naval Postgraduate School, tackles this question head-on for a Western audience. His account begins with a cogent, engrossing introduction to the history and theology of Shia Islam, encapsulating the intellectual and political trends that have shaped the faith and its relations with the dominant Sunni strain. Nasr argues that the Shia Crescent stretching from Lebanon and Syria through the Gulf to Iraq and Iran, finally terminating in Pakistan and India is gathering strength in the aftermath of Saddam's fall, cementing linkages that transcend political and linguistic borders and could lead to a new map of the Middle East. While Nasr's enthusiasm for Iraq's Shiite leader Ayatollah Sistani sometimes borders on the hagiographic, and he makes a number of uncharacteristic errors, such as conflating the Syrian Alawi community with the Turkish Alevis, his book is worthwhile reading for those seeking a primer on the second-largest Muslim sect. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist \*Starred \* About 15 percent of Muslims worldwide are Shia. In Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and Bahrain, Shia constitute a majority or plurality of the populace, and areas of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (in the latter, the oil fields) host Shia majorities. Iran's Islamic Revolution under Ayatollah Khomeini, which rushed Islam to the forefront of non-Islamic consciousness internationally, was a Shia phenomenon. Iranian Middle East researcher Nasr, who teaches, consults, and writes in the U.S., says that Khomeini was rather a maverick who discountenanced the quietism, ritualism, and celebratoriness of mainstream Shia. If that is a revelation to Westerners, so, probably, are Nasr's arguments that the Shia have been

persecuted and oppressed by the Sunni majority ever since the divergence of the two Islamic strains more than 1,300 years ago, and that Islamic terrorism from well before 9/11 to the current insurgency in post-Saddam Iraq is a tactic of intransigent Sunnism. Nasr never pontificates or accuses, always choosing to show both sides' reasons for even the most heinous actions. He never so much as hints at what many readers must infer from his presentation--that the U.S. should think again and again and again before attacking Iran. So enlightening and perspective altering that no one concerned about the Middle East should miss reading it. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Provocative. -- Thomas L. Friedman Brilliant and very readable. -- Trudy Rubin A must-read. -- Robert Hunt Provocative.--Thomas L. Friedman Brilliant and very readable.--Trudy Rubin A must-read.--Robert Hunt A must-read. --Robert Hunt Provocative. --Thomas L. Friedman Brilliant and very readable. --Trudy Rubin Smart, clear and timely. --Warren Bass Provocative. --Thomas L. Friedman "Brilliant and very readable. --Trudy Rubin "[A] must-read for those who find themselves perplexed about the sectarian violence in Iraq, the unpredictable politics of Iran, and the suddenly resurgent Hezbollah in Lebanon. --Robert Hunt "Smart, clear and timely. --Warren Bass "Fast moving, engaging and ultimately unnerving.... The Shia Revival is at its most provocative when exposing how the Sunni-Shiite power imbalance seeps out of classrooms and infects life on the ground. --Irshad Manji "This book offers compelling corrective reading.... Broad-ranging and detailed, but still eminently readable. --L. Carl Brown"