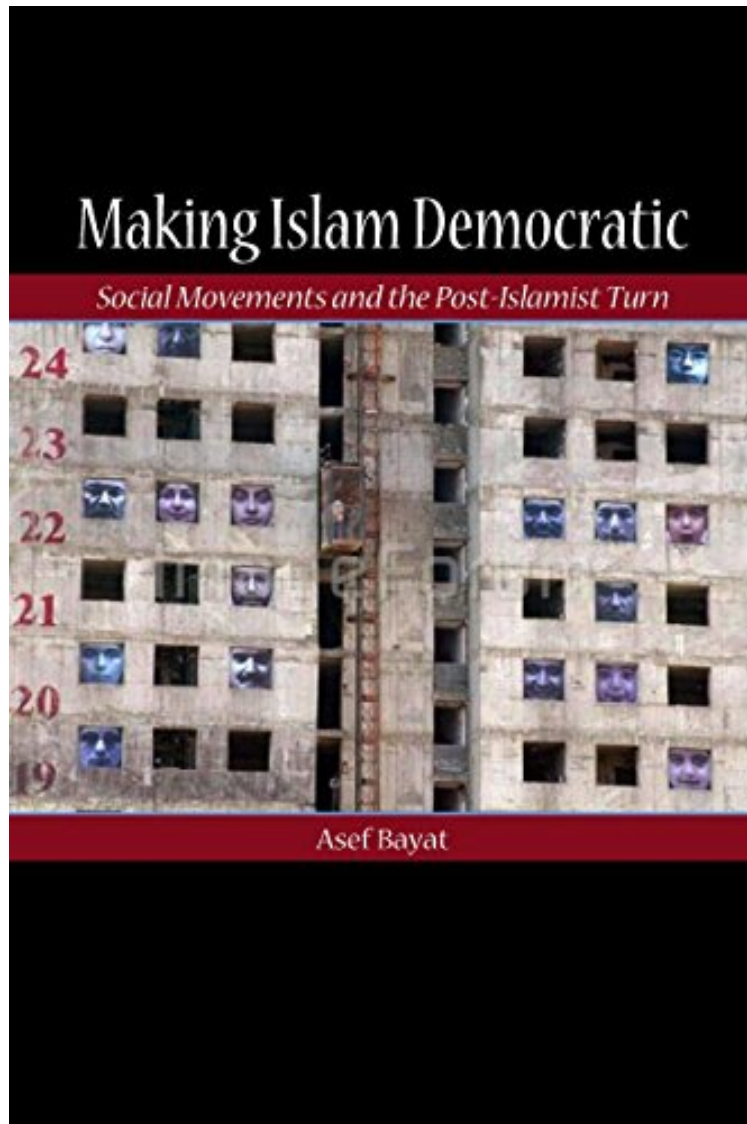


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Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn (Stanford Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Societies and Cultures)

Asef Bayat

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be worth my time, and all praised *Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn* (Stanford Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Societies and Cultures):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Comparative Study
By Stephen List
The book is readily accessible for those with little or no knowledge on either nations or Islam in general. Bayat covers Iran and Egypt and their own perspective democratic movements. His main inquiry throughout the book is how could Iran have an Islamic Revolution with out an Islamic movement while Egypt could not have an Islamic Revolution with an Islamic Movement. Bayat spends a majority of the time focusing on Iran after the revolution and Egypt from the early 70's to late 90's. If you are looking for a brief contemporary history on Iran and Egypt I would recommend it. It's a quick read and can keep your attention. For those with a little more experience with both nations I would still recommend the book due the nature of exploring deeper questions as to whether Islam is inherently authoritarian.
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Making Islam Democratic
By Vladimir Pilar
" Making Islam Democratic " It is interesting but incomplete as it covers only 2 countries. A negative is also that it is very dry reading which seems to be directed to a professorial reader/audience.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A key acquisition for any college-level collection
By Midwest Book Review
MAKING ISLAM DEMOCRATIC: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE POST-ISLAMIC TURN is a key acquisition for any college-level collection strong in Middle East studies. It offers a focus on events from Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution to modern times, considering religion, politics and everyday life in the Middle East and providing a fine analysis of the contemporary Iranian revolution and its evolution. Asef Bayat is Academic Director of the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, and lends authority and insight to his review of the modern Middle East world.
Diane C. Donovan
California Bookwatch

Whether Islam is compatible with democracy is an increasingly asked question, but ultimately a misguided one. In this book, Asef Bayat proposes that democratic ideals have less to do with the essence of any religion than with how it is practiced. He offers a new approach to Islam and democracy, outlining how the social struggles of student organizations, youth and women's groups, the intelligentsia, and other social movements can make Islam democratic. *Making Islam Democratic* examines in detail those social movements that have used religion to unleash social and political change, either to legitimize authoritarian rule or, in contrast, to construct an inclusive faith that embraces a democratic polity. It provides a fresh analysis of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution how it has evolved into the pervasive, post-Islamist reform movement of the early twenty-first century, and how it differed from Egypt's religious "passive revolution." Focusing on events from the Iranian Revolution to the current day, with a comparative focus on Islamism, post-Islamism, and active religious expression across the region, Bayat explores the highly contested relationship between religion, politics, and the quotidian in the Middle East. His book provides an important understanding of the great anxiety of our timethe global march of "Muslim rage"and offers a hopeful picture of a democratic Middle East.