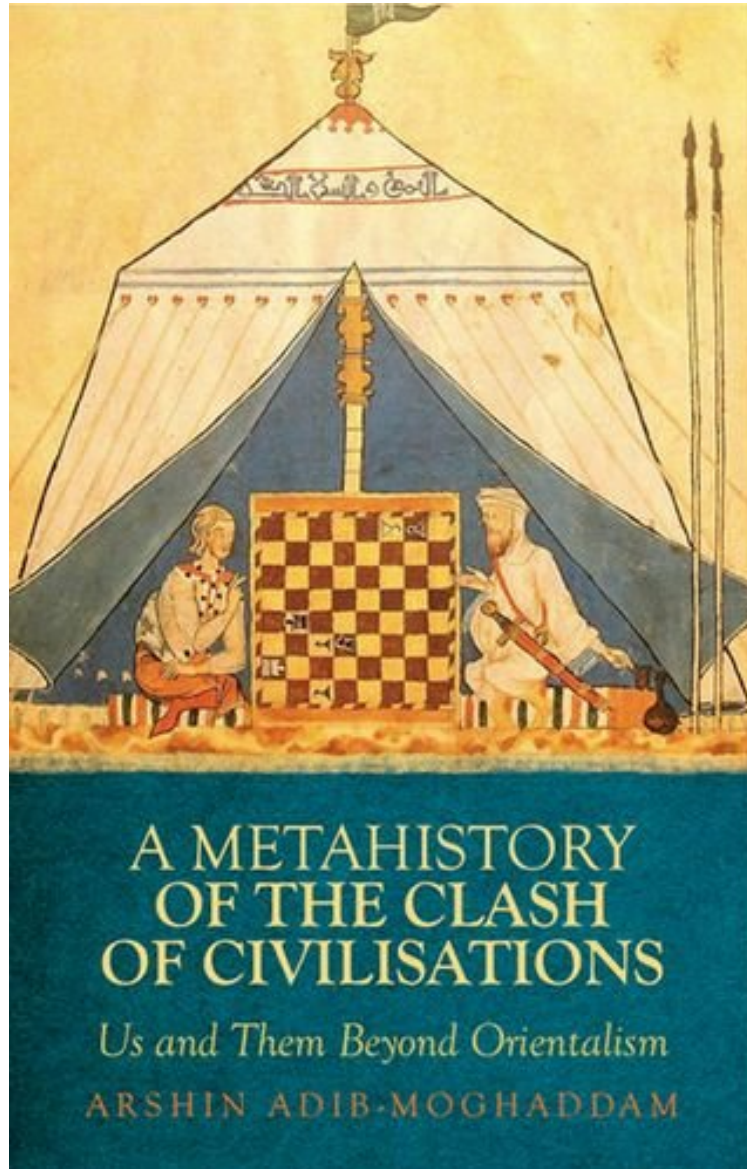


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Metahistory of the Clash of Civilisation: Us and Them Beyond Orientalism

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam

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Arshin Adib-Moghaddam : Metahistory of the Clash of Civilisation: Us and Them Beyond Orientalism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Metahistory of the Clash of Civilisation: Us and Them Beyond Orientalism:

This book seeks to dispel the myth that we have ever been embroiled in some "clash of civilisations." Adib-Moghaddam traverses various intellectual disciplines in order to find a pathway through the conceptual maze that has habituated us to think in "tribal" categories. Accompanying the reader on this journey from the wars between ancient Persia and Greece, the Crusades, Colonialism and the Enlightenment to the contemporary "wars on terror" are thinkers from "East" and "West": Adorno, Derrida, Farabi, Foucault, Hegel, Khayyam, Marcuse, Marx, Said, Ibn Sina, Weber. In asking where ideas such as the "clash of civilisations" come from, and by whom they are perpetuated, Adib-Moghaddam engages with both western and Islamic representations of the "other." He demonstrates a) the discontinuities between 'Islamism' and the canon of classical Islamic philosophy distinguishing between "Avicennian" and "Qutbian" discourses of Islam, and b) how the violence inscribed in the idea of the "West," especially during the period of the Enlightenment, continues to cast a shadow on world politics today. Expanding the geography of critical theory to include the canons of Islamic philosophy and poetry, *A Metahistory of the Clash of Civilisations* refuses to divorce Muslims from Europeans, Americans from Arabs, the Orient from the Occident. As such, it presents a frontal attack on our current cultural reality and Islamist-Western agitation against each other.

"This passionate and elegant work is a vigorous antidote to a constellation of discourses steeped in the Weltanschauung that the title of Samuel Huntington's infamous book encapsulates so well. Arshin Adib-Moghaddam's reflections are a stimulating contribution to Edward Said's legacy of radical critique of all essentialist constructions of otherness."--Prof. Gilbert Achcar, author of *The Arabs and the Holocaust* and (with Noam Chomsky) *Perilous Power: The Middle East and US Foreign Policy*"What Adib-Moghaddam has done is to establish an exceptionally powerful refutation of clashing civilisations. Eloquently, rigorously and imaginatively, he traces and critiques genealogies of binary and simple oppositional thought and argues that the future of the world depends on our accepting and understanding complexities and internal oppositions."--Prof. Stephen Chan, 2010 International Studies Association (ISA) Eminent Scholar in Global Development"Eloquent, powerful, incisive and impressive in its range, *A Metahistory of the Clash of Civilisations* is a masterly work of critical deconstruction in the finest tradition of Michel Foucault and Edward Said. For anyone wishing to better understand the current state of international politics, this book is absolutely essential."--Richard Jackson, Secretary of the British International Studies Association (BISA)"Adib-Moghaddam shows convincingly that the idea of the clash of civilisations, especially in its latest manifestations, acquires a life of its own, detaching itself from the reality of the Western and Islamic worlds. The true believers of each side derive strength and credibility from their opposite numbers. The idea of a clash of civilisations is dangerous because it can draw us all into the conflict...a book with an important message."--Asian Affairs

About the Author
Arshin Adib-Moghaddam is Reader in Comparative Politics and International Relations and Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at SOAS, University of London. He is the author of *The International Politics of the Persian Gulf: A cultural genealogy* (Routledge, 2006, 2009), *Iran in World Politics: The question of the Islamic Republic* (Hurst/Oxford University Press, 2008, 2010), *A metahistory of the Clash of Civilisations: Us and them beyond Orientalism* (Oxford/Hurst, 2011) and the forthcoming *On the Arab Revolts and the Iranian Revolution: Power and Resistance Today* (Bloomsbury). Educated at the Universities of Hamburg, American (Washington DC) and Cambridge, where he received his MPhil and PhD, he was the first Jarvis Doctorow Fellow in International Relations and Peace Studies at St. Edmund Hall and the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford. Since 2007, Adib-Moghaddam is based in the Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS. His writings have been translated into many languages and he is a frequent contributor to leading newspapers and TV channels around the world.