

Muslim Extremism in Egypt: The Prophet and Pharaoh

Gilles Kepel

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#250924 in Books 1986-05-22 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 #File Name: 0520056876250 pages | File size: 70.Mb

Gilles Kepel : Muslim Extremism in Egypt: The Prophet and Pharaoh before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Muslim Extremism in Egypt: The Prophet and Pharaoh:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The translation is unfortunately not particularly good. By Leon Lam Certainly one of the most cited work in the field of Islamism. Although written in 1984, some of Kepel's predictions are still relevant in 2016. The translation is unfortunately not particularly good. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A great piece of research. By J. Adams This book was written over 20 years ago, long before anyone focused on the possible consequences of a growing menace to humanity in the guise of Islamic fanatics calling the masses back to the founding tenants of Islam. Kepel lived in Egypt and spent a lot of time researching and reading what was happening in the 70's and 80's as well as examining the causes and consequences of Islamic calls to jihad and having Muslims continue their conquest of the earth in the name of Allah. This book shows how Egypt's experiment with socialism resulted in a corrupt, dishonest, and totally failed state. Kepel points out the costs of this experiment by showing that the state created a horrific perfect storm, using the establishment of Israel as the ultimate bogeyman to deflect the masses attention away from the failures of socialism. Essentially the Egyptians were no different than the other kleptocracies in the Middle East and held the hand puppet of Israel as the focus of attention while the other hand deprived the general population of any semblance of a decent standard of living. Kepel's insights into the assassination of Sadat because of his overtures to Israel were most enlightening, essentially showing that Sadat was killed by forces he had nourished with years of hatred toward modernity. Carter and his advisors probably still do

not understand to this day what damage they did in the Camp David accords when Sadat traded Soviet handouts for American ones. The view held by the vast majority of Muslims in the Middle East of the American-Zionist plot to overtake the Middle East was cemented and fermented in the accord. It took another generation for it to come to fruition in 9/11, but it all started there. Kepel was not aware of Carter's funding of the Mujahadeen in Afghanistan in the 70's at the same time so is not able to link the beginnings of bin Laden's lunatic fringe groups as well. Another interesting observation by Kepel, which is now becoming more apparent is that the Islamic social code of the separation of the sexes lends itself to sexual frustration on the part of the massive numbers of young and horny Muslims so that the lure of 72 virgins may well be the primary recruiting tool for the jihadists to get them to be a "martyr" by committing suicide and getting the sex they cannot get in their own societies. Having traveled throughout Egypt many times myself, I can say that the classic "jelly bean" theory has come to pass. Feed the bear a jelly bean to ward him off will only work as long as you still have jelly beans. When you run out, be prepared to be the next meal of the bear. A great book, especially given its date of publication. It was far ahead of its time. If only the idiots in the US State Department, CIA, or FBI had read it, the prime instigator of the first attack on the World Trade Center would have been banned from the US instead of being allowed entry after the Egyptians arrested him for his terrorist activities in the 1980's. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Susan S. was a gift for someone else

Gilles Kepel takes us into the world of the students, professionals, workers, and unemployed who are caught up in the Islamic movements of our day. Events that have riveted world attention the World Trade Center bombing, assassinations in Beirut, the attempt on the life of the Pope, the assassination of Sadat are illuminated by this penetrating study which surveys the background of the Islamist movement beginning with the Muslim Brotherhood in 1928.

From Library Journal Within the past decade, a wave of religious fundamentalism has surged through the Islamic world. With the assassination of President Anwar Sadat as a focal point, Kepel examines the ideologies and activities of several Egyptian fundamentalist groups over 30 years. He describes the small but devoted religious groups determined to replace their barbaric regime with a government devoted to the true principles of Islam. The fervor of the Islamic revolutionaries, however, was equalled by their political naivete, and their success in killing Egypt's president led only to arrests and continued powerlessness. Although sympathetic to their religious concerns, Kepel asserts that most of the zealots were motivated more by the hopelessness and poverty of Egyptian life than by a desire to replace a modernist regime with pure Islam. A reliable, scholarly study of an important phenomenon. Elizabeth R. Hayford, President, Assoc. Colls. of the Midwest, Chicago Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. "An intelligent, sympathetic, but critical survey of the more important Muslim fundamentalist movements, leaderships, and ideologies in Egypt today." -- Don Peretz, *The Annals* "Broadly conceived and incisive." -- Shaul Bakhash, *New York of Books* "[With its] intensity of interpretive detail and convincing evocation of the economic and political contexts in which Islamist movements in Egypt have developed, this book is in every way a worthy sequel to the work of Richard P. Mitchell, to whom it is dedicated." -- Dale F. Eickelman, *The Muslim World* Language Notes Text: English, French (translation)