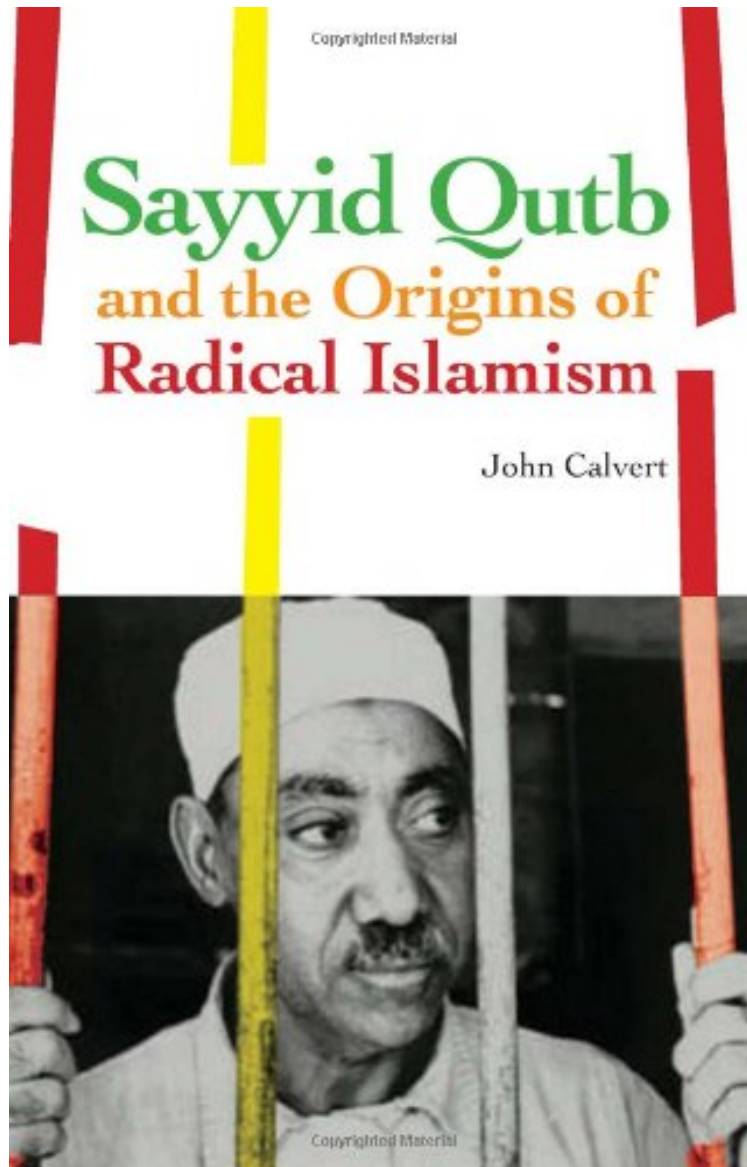


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## Sayyid Qutb and the Origins of Radical Islamism

John Calvert

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**John Calvert : Sayyid Qutb and the Origins of Radical Islamism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sayyid Qutb and the Origins of Radical Islamism:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Engaging Yet Thorough TreatmentBy Daniel Louis ReraI originally wanted to give this book 4 stars because I expected a more thorough treatment of Qutb's ideology and influence, but the author's engaging yet thorough treatment of the subject material was so masterful that I think the book is amazing

enough as a biography and glimpse into the social and political fabric of early to mid 20th century Egypt. John Calvert's depiction of Qutb extends way beyond the simplistic caricatures found in breezier treatments of his thinking. I was a bit disappointed to find two typos in the printing: Qutb being referred to as "Qub" on page 38 and the duplication of the phrase "Adnan Musallam notes of this poem" on page 101. I strongly recommend this book to anyone irrespective of their initial interest in the subject material. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. We must read this book to understand the real meaning ...By Minoru Okajima We must read this book to understand the real meaning of Islamism. The war against ISIS isn't a war against terrorism, but a war of ideologies. The U.S. administrations, Republican or Democrat, don't understand this, so they are repeating in Irak the same mistakes they committed in Vietnam. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Joseph Talarico Great topic on how the global jihad founder got his start but a poor read.

Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966) was an influential Egyptian ideologue who established the theoretical basis for radical Islamism in the postcolonial Sunni Muslim world. Lacking a pure understanding of the leader's life and work, the popular media has conflated Qutb's moral purpose with the aims of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda. He is often portrayed as a terrorist, Islamo-Fascist, and advocate of murder. An expert on social protest and political resistance, John Calvert rescues Qutb from misrepresentation and follows the evolution of his thought within the context of his time. Calvert recounts Qutb's life from the small village in which he was raised to his execution at the behest of Abd al-Nasser's regime. His study remains sensitive to the cultural, political, social, and economic circumstances that shaped Qutb's thought, including major developments that composed one of the most eventful periods in Egyptian history. These years witnessed the full flush of Britain's tutelary regime, the advent of Egyptian nationalism, and the political hegemony of the Free Officers. Qutb rubbed shoulders with Taha Husayn, Naguib Mahfouz, and Abd al-Nasser himself, though his Islamism originally had little to do with religion. Only in response to his harrowing experience in prison did Qutb come to regard Islam and kufr (infidelity) as oppositional, antithetical, and therefore mutually exclusive. Calvert shows how Qutb repackaged and reformulated the Islamic heritage to challenge authority, including those who claimed (falsely, Qutb believed) to be Muslim.

This rich and carefully researched biography sets Qutb for the first time in his Egyptian context, rescuing him from caricature without whitewashing his radicalism. It is no small achievement. (The Economist) [A] comprehensive overview of Qutb's life and writings. (Joshua Sinai Washington Times) Fascinating details emerge in this book.... Anyone interested in the evolution of Islamism in the 20th century should read it. (Marc Lynch The Atlantic) The first truly comprehensive biography. (Samuel Helfront Jewish of Books) An exquisite intellectual biography. (Youssef Aboul-Enein Small Wars Journal) [An] excellent intellectual biography. (Bruce Maddy-Weitzman Bustan: The Middle East Book 1900-01-00) John Calvert greatly increases our knowledge about Qutb, situating him in intellectual context -- and does so without losing his balance. While the book is quite detailed, it should still be welcomed by a very broad audience indeed. (Nathan J. Brown of Middle East Studies 1900-01-00) Given that Sayyid Qutb is taught on a large (and increasing) number of campuses, and given that he has already been introduced to the public in best-selling books, such as Lawrence Wright's *The Looming Tower*, the very publication of a Qutb biography should attract considerable interest. This book not only constitutes what is likely to remain the figure's definitive biography but also offers crucial new insights on the post-1954 history of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. We are dealing with a rare book that is likely to become a classic in the field of political Islam. Outstanding. (Thomas Hegghammer, associate, Initiative on Religion in International Affairs, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School) About the Author John Calvert is associate professor of history at Creighton University, Nebraska. He is the author of *Islamism: A Documentary and Reference Guide* and coeditor and translator of Sayyid Qutb's *A Child from the Village*. His research focuses on social protest and political resistance movements in the modern Middle East, as well as Egyptian nationalism and the ideological origins of al-Qaeda.