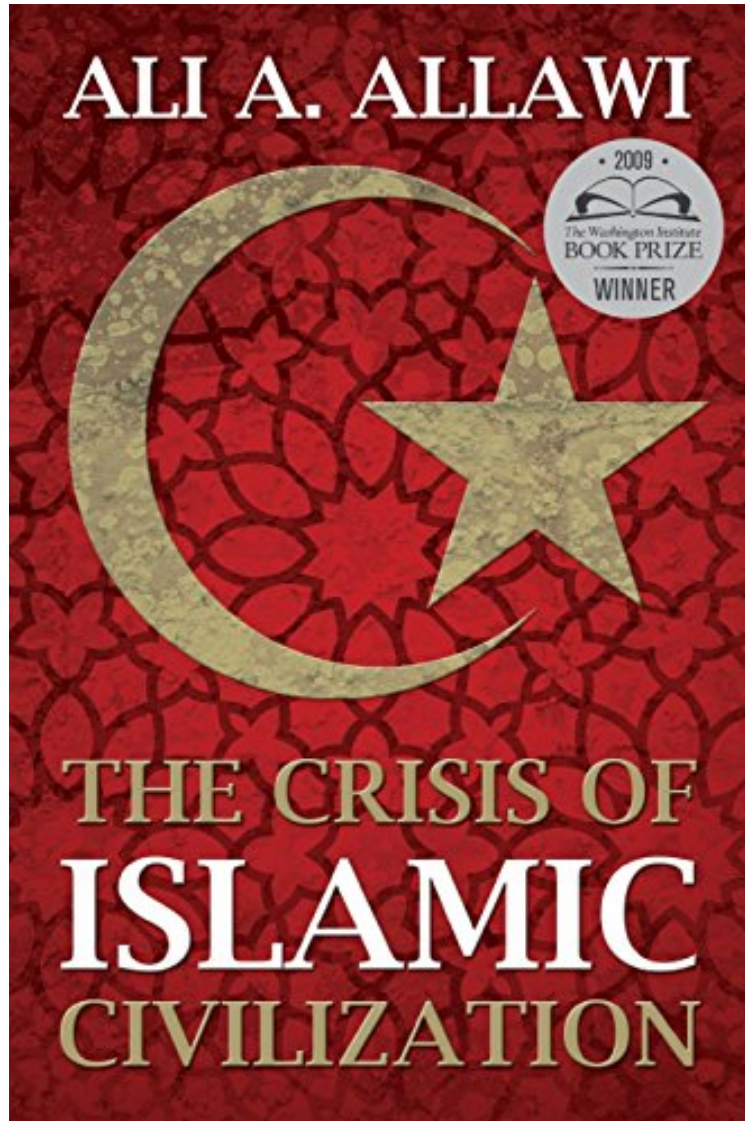


## The Crisis of Islamic Civilization

*Ali A. Allawi*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1248385 in Books 2010-04-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x .72 x 6.14l, .95 #File Name: 0300164068320 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Ali A. Allawi : The Crisis of Islamic Civilization** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crisis of Islamic Civilization:

39 of 41 people found the following review helpful. A thorough "insiders" account of Islam struggling...By Roi SoleilI've read a number of books on Islam's crisis, but this is the first I've read one actually written by a Muslim. Allawi was not just an Iraqi minister, he is at least partly educated in the West and clearly a first rate intellectual in any event. Allawi delivers a balanced view of Islam's difficulties coping with the modern world; he heaps significant blame on the West for repeatedly taking advantage of weaker Muslim countries, but he also doesn't hold back on his

criticisms of Islam's many problems. His bottom line is that Muslims have lost their way and the true essence of Islam, and that is individual responsibility for dedicating one's life to the foundation of the religion. Living in harmony within the community, mutual respect and modesty (men and women, inside and out), staying in touch with one's environment and actively seeking knowledge that will lead to a closer relationship with God. He argues that the West has long since lost its soul and the corrupt/despotic regimes of most Arab countries simply ape the most vulgar and despicable elements of Western "civilization." In my mind, he lays out a compelling argument for all of us losing our way. It's truly an excellent book for anyone really interested in Islam's struggle, it's not necessarily for someone looking for a book focused on terrorists/fundamentalism/extremism. However, he does explain the split in Islam between the Sufi and the Wahabi/Salafist extremists whom he explains have lost their way...and ability to think. The Wahabi/Salafists take every element of the Koran and Sharia as literal and are intellectually incapable of understanding nuance. Allawi argues that these extremists have no true knowledge of Islam and what it really means. It presents convincing arguments which detail Islam's inability to find solutions to modern problems because there is no central authority to manage development of either Islam's interpretation/development. Shia clerics fare better than the hodgepodge of Sunni clerics and self-appointed "experts" in the Taliban, al-Qaida and other gangs. He argues that the rise of the Wahabi/Salafists has actually degraded Islam because of all the pretenders issuing fatwas and continually misinterpreting Sharia and the Koran. Their focus on the ridiculous, like requiring facial hair on men, covered women, no school for girls etc...reveals their stupidity and ignorance of Islam...a religion steeped in science/math/medicine over the centuries. Excellent read for those who want to better understand what's ailing one of the world's great religions. It's also revealing for a Westerner wondering about what's ailing us as well. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Safi Qureshey Best book covering the history and current challenges of the global Muslim community!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was happy with the book and it came out in good shape. By Customer The book came in good order.

Islam as a religion is central to the lives of over a billion people, but its outer expression as a distinctive civilization has been undergoing a monumental crisis. Buffeted by powerful adverse currents, Islamic civilization today is a shadow of its former self. The most disturbing and possibly fatal of these currents is the imperial expansion of the West into Muslim lands and the blast of modernity that accompanied it are now compounded by a third giant wave, globalization. These forces have increasingly tested Islam and Islamic civilization for validity, adaptability, and the ability to hold on to the loyalty of Muslims, says Ali A. Allawi in his provocative new book. While the faith has proved resilient in the face of these challenges, other aspects of Islamic civilization have atrophied or died, Allawi contends, and Islamic civilization is now undergoing its last crisis. The book explores how Islamic civilization began to unravel under colonial rule, as its institutions, laws, and economies were often replaced by inadequate modern equivalents. Allawi also examines the backlash expressed through the increasing religiosity of Muslim societies and the spectacular rise of political Islam and its terrorist offshoots. Assessing the status of each of the building blocks of Islamic civilization, the author concludes that Islamic civilization cannot survive without the vital spirituality that underpinned it in the past. He identifies a key set of principles for moving forward, principles that will surprise some and anger others, yet clearly must be considered.

From Publishers Weekly Allawi (The Occupation of Iraq), former minister of defense and minister of finance in Iraq's postwar governments, offers his version of the causes and consequences of the decline of Islamic civilization and proposals for its rejuvenation. The author argues that the West's violent encroachment on the Muslim world in the 19th and 20th centuries shattered local institutions and economies and disrupted any natural evolution of Islamic society; furthermore, current efforts to modernize the faith amount to draping an entire civilization in ill-fitting, inorganic ideas. Allawi calls for a return to the creative and artistic heritage of Islam and a restoration of balance between the physical and the spiritual... between men and women; between rights and duties while suggesting that the time to find balance may soon run out. The writing is erudite and the conclusions fascinating, but Allawi's dismissive attitude toward Western societies and their mass rejection... of the cardinal virtues, not least wisdom and moderation, as well as a reluctance to accommodate anything other than a faith-based understanding of human reality might limit his audience. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Allawi (The Occupation of Iraq) investigates the pathways that led to the deterioration of the Islamic civilization, known for its splendid culture between the eighth and 12th centuries. The inadaptability of Islam to modern life, the author argues, stems from its deep roots in the sacred. To be modern, according to Allawi, is to be liberated from the divine as the sole source of ethics and virtues. Allawi demonstrates that the individual in Islam is not an autonomous entity a common principle in all religions rather, its essence is driven from a complete submission to the godly creeds. He notes that the secularization of Muslim societies, which seemed to be on track until the mid-1970s, has shattered, giving way to political Islam. He suggests that the failure of Muslim societies to address the challenges and the threat of fast-growing Western cultural imperialism deepened their crisis. In an analytic, journalistic style, Allawi presents views about modern Islam that are both stimulating and informative. This

provocative book is recommended for informed readers. Sadiq Alkorigi, South Regional Lib., Broward Cty., FL  
Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. ? . . . a challenging and  
ambitious effort . . . thoughtful, pertinent and informative . . . I have no hesitation in recommending [The Crisis of  
Islamic Civilisation] to others, Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Muhammad Khan, Muslim News -- Muhammad  
Khan "Muslim News" (03/27/2009)." . . . a challenging and ambitious effort . . . thoughtful, pertinent and informative . .  
. I have no hesitation in recommending [The Crisis of Islamic Civilisation] to others, Muslims and non-Muslims  
alike." -- Muhammad Khan "Muslim News" (03/27/2009)