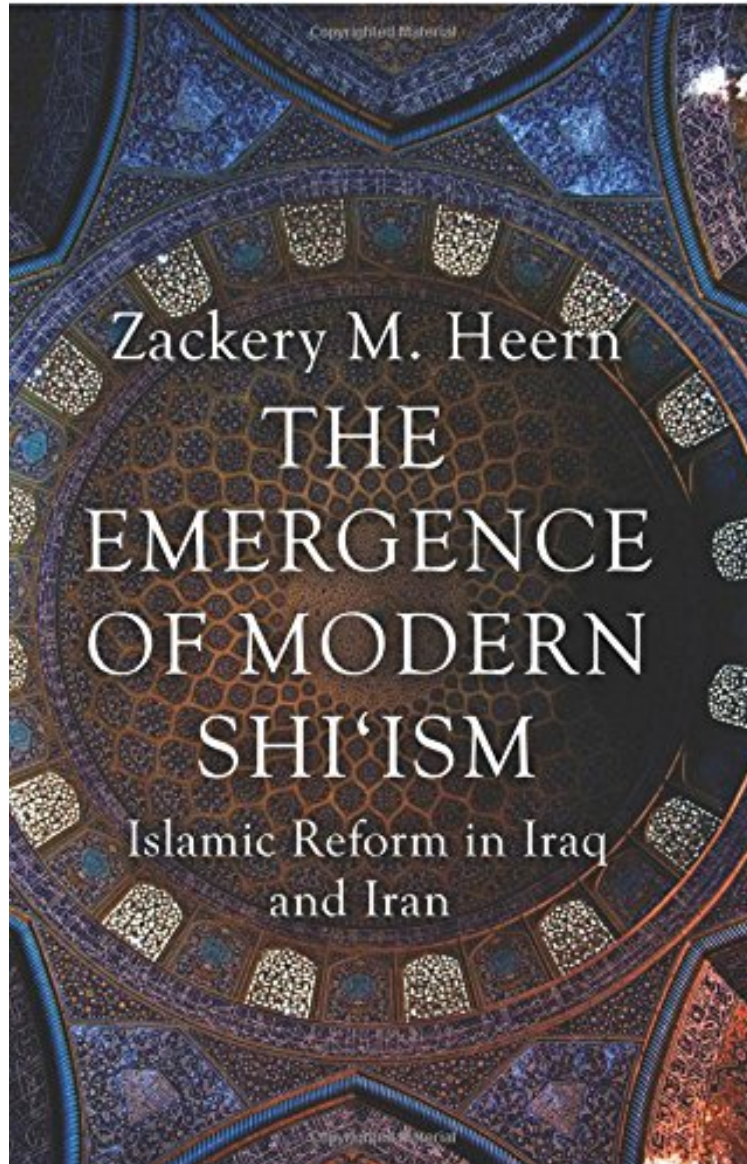


[E-BOOK] The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism: Islamic Reform in Iraq and Iran

The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism: Islamic Reform in Iraq and Iran

Zackery M. Heern

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Zackery M. Heern : The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism: Islamic Reform in Iraq and Iran before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism: Islamic Reform in Iraq and Iran:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. fun read
By zach
Excellent overview of Shiism in the early modern period, provides a succinct and concise explanation of the development of Usulism within the context of multiple emergent "modernities" (European colonialism, re-centralization of Iran under the Qajars, de-centralization of Iraq under the Mamluks/Ottomans). Notes section leads the reader to many other excellent studies on Shiism also available in English. There are a few typos, author refers to Imam Jafar al-Sadiq as the 7th Imam on page 73, and page 93 (he was the 6th Imam); otherwise a clear and engaging read.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Islam History
By ipilot1
Good book to understand history of Islam and the interactions within Islam

Scholars often locate the origins of the modern Islamic world in European colonialism or Islamic reactions to European modernity. The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism focuses instead on the rise of Islamic movements indigenous to the Middle East, which developed in direct response to the collapse and decentralization of the so-called Islamic gunpowder empires. In other words, new Shi'i, Sunni, and Sufi movements emerged as the Safavid, Ottoman, and Mughal empires decentralized and disintegrated. Professor Heern specifically highlights the emergence of modern Usuli Shi'ism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Therefore, this book outlines the historical background and ideological roots of the most powerful movement in modern Shi'i history. The long-term impact of the Usuli revival was that Shi'i scholars gained unprecedented social, political, and economic power in Iran and southern Iraq. Usuli clerics claimed authority to issue binding legal judgments, which, they argued, must be observed by all Shi'is. By the early nineteenth century, Usulism became a popular, fiercely independent, transnational Islamic movement. Usuli clerics continue to operate at the heart of social and political developments in contemporary Iraq and Iran. Thought provoking and challenging, this book examines the foundations of modern Islam, and provides fascinating insight into the region's religious and political developments both past and present.

'Zackery Heern has produced a very important and deeply researched contribution to the history of Shi'ism. At last there is a book that sets developments in Shi'ism in the context of the larger Islamic world. Scholars of Islamic studies will greatly benefit from reading this book.'
Roy P. Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History, Harvard University, Author of *The Mantle of the Prophet*
'This is an absorbing account of the rise of modern Shi'ism and of the rise of the Shi'i clergy as authoritative interpreters (mujtahids) of theology, religious practice, and the law. Zackery Heern aptly situates the 'triumph of Usuli Shi'ism' in Iraq and Iran, brought to fruition by Wahid Bihbihani and his disciples during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, within broader contemporary currents of Islamic religious revival and reform.'
Peter Sluglett, Director, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore, Author of *Iraq Since 1958*
'A major achievement. This original new work explains not only the roots of modern Shi'ite thought but also places these roots into the context of Middle Eastern religious reformism since the second half of the 1700s. An excellent and timely introduction for students as well as general readers seeking to understand the beginnings of modern Islam.'
Peter Von Sivers, Associate Professor, History, University of Utah, Author of *Patterns of World History*
'Heern not only provides the most thorough intellectual, social and organizational analysis of the rise of the rationalist Usuli school in Shi'ism, but contextualizes it within the framework of local, regional and global changes of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Significantly, he posits these developments as an important manifestation of the global phenomenon of multiple modernities.'
Meir Litvak, Associate Professor, Department of Middle Eastern History, Tel Aviv University, Author of *Shi'i Scholars of Nineteenth-Century Iraq*
This book 'challenges European hegemonic discourse which views modernity as a European phenomenon that spread to the rest of the world, and instead postulates neo-Usulism as a Shi'i form of modernity that developed in a world in which multiple modernities have prevailed.'
Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies