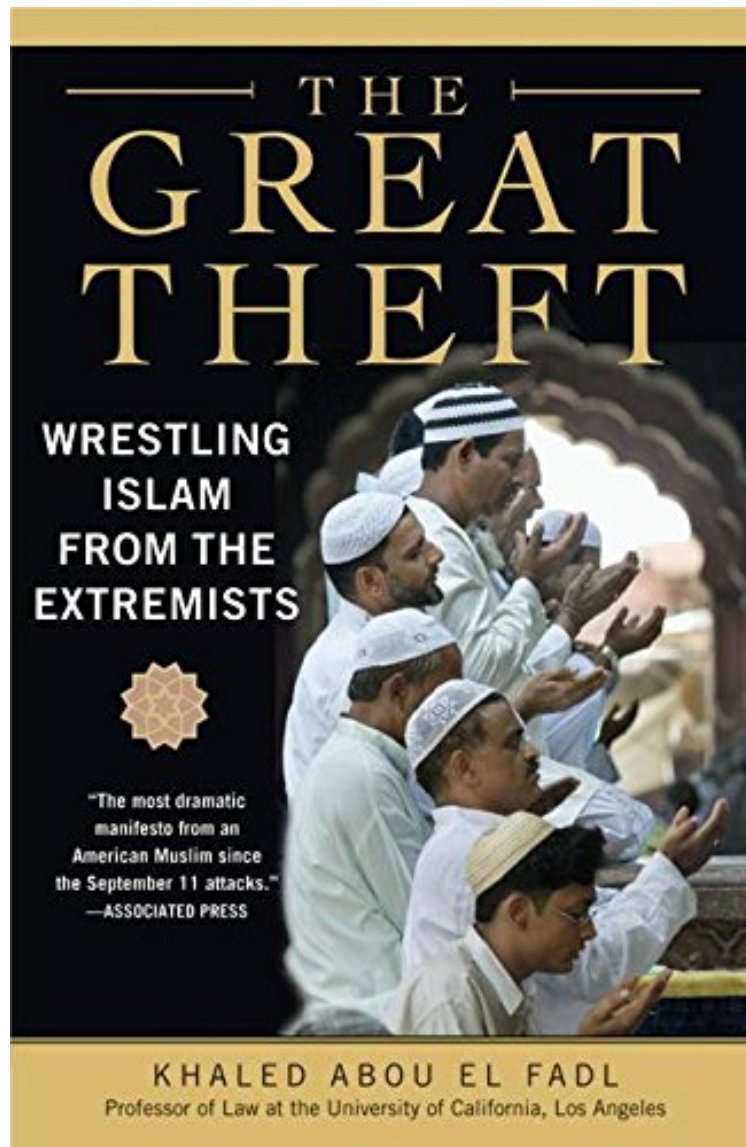


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## The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam from the Extremists

*Khaled M. Abou El Fadl*

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#302234 in Books Khaled M Abou El Fadl 2007-01-23 2007-01-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .76 x 5.311, .55 #File Name: 0061189030336 pages The Great Theft Wrestling Islam from the Extremists | File size: 34.Mb

**Khaled M. Abou El Fadl : The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam from the Extremists** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam from the Extremists:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book answers the difficult question bothering Muslims and non-Muslims ...By Book Hunger Excellent book answers the difficult question bothering Muslims and non-Muslims alike: does Islam truly promote the extremism, terrorism, and the ugliness that pervades Islam's image today? No.

Simply put, that image has been hijacked through "The Great Theft." Dr. Abou El Fadl eloquently describes The Great Theft -- its origins, history, evolution, contemporary crimes -- and enlightens us all to Islam's true beauty: justice, compassion, mercy, love. Sounds cliché doesn't it? It's truth -- one that Dr. Abou El Fadl hopes to reclaim from Islam's thieves. Overall, superb book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An eye for an eye leaves half the world blind. By Marianne Sheehan This is a comprehensive study of how radicalism within any given institution, religious or other, can reduce the precepts, creeds or original mission statements to rubble, giving it misconceptions and total fallacies, in total dichotomy to its original founder or intent. It is an upsetting read due to this misled distortion, yet one that is enlightening to one who has never pursued it. I recommend it to anyone who can read with an open mind and willingness to transform original and misunderstood ideas. The first third, highly technical and descriptive, is necessary to bring it to a personal conviction and true understanding. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The counter to terrorism is love. By Ian HAXTON This book is a Must Read for anyone interested in today's worldwide problems. All real religions say the same thing - charity, humility, tolerance, kindness and Oneness. Terrorism cannot be removed by force. The counter to terrorism is love.

Despite President George W. Bush's assurances that Islam is a peaceful religion and that all good Muslims hunger for democracy, confusion persists and far too many Westerners remain convinced that Muslims and terrorists are synonymous. In the aftermath of the attacks of 9/11, the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the recent bombings in London, an unprecedented amount of attention has been directed toward Islam and the Muslim world. Yet, even with this increased scrutiny, most of the public discourse regarding Islam revolves around the actions of extremist factions such as the Wahhabis and al-Qa'ida. But what of the Islam we don't hear about? As the second-largest and fastest-growing religion in the world, Islam is deemed by more than a billion Muslims to be a source of serenity and spiritual peace, and a touchstone for moral and ethical guidance. While extremists have an impact upon the religion that is wildly disproportionate to their numbers, moderates constitute the majority of Muslims worldwide. It is this rift between the quiet voice of the moderates and the deafening statements of the extremists that threatens the future of the faith. In *The Great Theft*, Khaled Abou El Fadl, one of the world's preeminent Islamic scholars, argues that Islam is currently passing through a transformative period no less dramatic than the movements that swept through Europe during the Reformation. At this critical juncture there are two completely opposed worldviews within Islam competing to define this great world religion. The stakes have never been higher, and the future of the Muslim world hangs in the balance. Drawing on the rich tradition of Islamic history and law, *The Great Theft* is an impassioned defense of Islam against the encroaching power of the extremists. As an accomplished Islamic jurist, Abou El Fadl roots his arguments in long-standing historical legal debates and delineates point by point the beliefs and practices of moderate Muslims, distinguishing these tenets from the corrupting influences of the extremists. From the role of women in Islam to the nature of jihad, from democracy and human rights to terrorism and warfare, Abou El Fadl builds a vital vision for a moderate Islam. At long last, the great majority of Muslims who oppose extremism have a desperately needed voice to help reclaim Islam's great moral tradition.

From Publishers Weekly El Fadl, professor of Islamic law at UCLA and Bush appointee to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, is the academic voice of the world's majority-moderate Muslims. His strong credentials and thoughtful approach set him apart from his peers. Here, he successfully argues that the extremist sects of Islam, mainly Wahhabism, blatantly defy the true values of Islam. He clarifies that Wahhabism was once an unpopular, fringe, cultlike movement, which only grew through a chance partnership with the Saudi Arabian ruling family. The discovery of oil created an unprecedented infusion of petro-dollars into the fledgling, conservative belief system. The point of the book, El Fadl writes, is to define "the reality of Muslim thought as it currently exists." He focuses on the extremists' "puritan" view, exposing the hypocrisies and inconsistencies inherent in their "imagined Islam." He doesn't offer specific solutions, but he raises the issues carefully and well. Though the writing can be dry and portions read like a law school lecture, overall El Fadl's book is a fulfilling read for moderate Muslims concerned about conservative leadership and any non-Muslims who want to inform themselves about the extremists' misuse of Islam. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. *The Great Theft* is probably the most dramatic manifesto from an American Muslim since the September 11 attacks. (Associated Press) Those looking for an understanding of the Muslim world and its relationship to the West will find this book invaluable. (Dallas Morning News) Mother Jones and the National rarely see eye-to-eye, but we both agree on this essential title. (Mother Jones Magazine) An uncommonly rich, learned and easily accessible framework for understanding the current theological struggle within Islam. (Washington Post Book World) [*The Great Theft*] lucidly answers important questions Westerners have about Islam. (San Francisco Chronicle) Khaled Abou El Fadl has made a contribution that should be widely distributed and deeply reflected upon. (Globe and Mail (Toronto)) One of the more engaging primers on Islam available. (Foreign Affairs) About the Author Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl is one of the most important and influential Islamic thinkers in the modern age. An accomplished Islamic jurist and scholar, he is a professor at the UCLA School of Law, where he teaches Islamic law, immigration law, human rights law, and

international and national security law. As the most critical and powerful voice against puritanical and Wahhabi Islam today, he regularly appears on national and international television and radio, including CNN, NBC, PBS, NPR, and the Voice of America (broadcast throughout the Middle East).