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The Closing of the Muslim Mind: How Intellectual Suicide Created the Modern Islamist Crisis

Robert R. Reilly

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The book you must read to understand the Islamist crisis—and the threat to us all

Robert R. Reilly's eye-opening book masterfully explains the frightening behavior coming out of the Islamic world. Terrorism, he shows, is only one manifestation of the spiritual pathology of Islamism.

Reilly uncovers the root of our contemporary crisis: a pivotal struggle waged within the Muslim world nearly a millennium ago. In a heated battle over the role of reason, the side of *irrationality* won. The deformed theology that resulted, Reilly reveals, produced the spiritual pathology of Islamism, and a deeply dysfunctional culture.

The Closing of the Muslim Mindsolves such puzzles as:

· why the Arab world stands near the bottom of every measure of human development

· why scientific inquiry is nearly dead in the Islamic world

· why Spain translates more books in a single year than the entire Arab world has in the past *thousand* years

· why some people in Saudi Arabia still refuse to believe man has been to the moon

Delving deeper than previous polemics and simplistic analyses, ***The Closing of the Muslim Mind***provides the answers the West has so desperately needed in confronting the Islamist crisis.

"Should be required reading for anyone who hopes to argue effectively against Islamic jihad." —The Center for the Advancement of Capitalism

"What happened to moderate Islam and what sort of hope we may have for it in the future . . . is the subject of Robert Reilly's brilliant and groundbreaking new book. . . . *Closing* is a page-turner that reads almost like an intellectual detective novel. It is among those few brave books on Islam . . . that should be read by anyone who wants to understand one of the most fundamental causes of conflict in the 21st century."
—*National Review Online*

"A book that may offer the key to both understanding and perhaps defeating the ongoing war of terror against the West."
—*American Spectator*

"**Robert R. Reilly comes closer to providing a persuasive explanation [of what happened to Islamic culture] than any other account I have seen**. As Reilly succinctly shows, Islamic civilization . . . threw out of the intellectual window the principles of rational inquiry that the Greeks had first introduced to the West

half a millennium before Christ.”
—*Weekly Standard*

“The lack of liberty within Islam is a huge problem. Robert Reilly’s *The Closing of the Muslim Mind* shows that a millennium ago Muslims debated whether minds should be free to explore the world—and freedom lost. The intellectual history he offers helps to explain why Muslim countries fell behind Christian-based ones in scientific inquiry, economic development, and technology. Reilly provides astonishing statistics . . . [and] also points out how theology prefigures politics.”
—*World* magazine

“Reilly recounts Islam’s abandonment of Hellenistic reason, and blames it for the subsequent decline of Muslim civilization and the rise of radical Islam. . . . The importance of this turn in Muslim thinking cannot be exaggerated.”
—*Asia Times*

“Superb and essential . . . Fascinating.”
—*Jihad Watch*

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—Hudson Institute

“An eye-opening and mind-opening book . . . No short review can do full justice to this book . . . Well-researched and meticulously documented.”
—*Oregon Live*

“Superb and stimulating . . . Reilly’s small book has earned a place near the top of the tiny library of books I regard as indispensable. How did I live so many years without it?”
—Joseph Sobran

“Hatred of Islamism for the West is not merely political, as Reilly’s exhaustive analysis shows, but is indeed ‘metaphysically necessary.’ . . . The roots of this now pervasive attitude are deeply buried and shrouded in

time, denial and ignorance, and it is the principal achievement of Reilly's book that he provides a comprehensive account of this momentous event, written in a lucid fashion that is accessible to both experts and the general public."
—*National Observer* (Australia)

"Clear and concise . . . What Reilly suggests, based on abundant modern scholarship, is that the first fully developed theological school in Islam, the Mu'talizites, would probably have despised bin Laden's ravings. The tragedy of Islam is that the Mu'talizites . . . have become anathematised heretics."
—*MercatorNet*

"The most eye-opening book of 2010."
—*Catholic Culture*

"Robert Reilly helps explain the Muslim worldview by thoroughly documenting the historic and doctrinal roots behind it; by refreshingly bypassing the overly dramatized question of "what went wrong," he explains the more pressing "*why* it went wrong." —Raymond Ibrahim

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