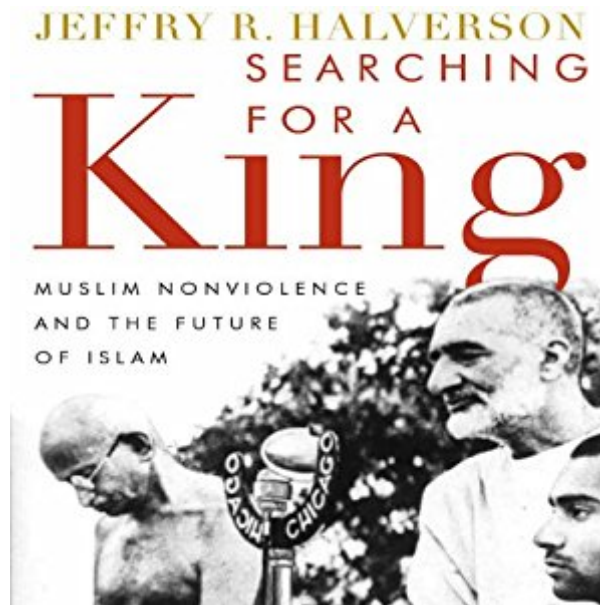




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Searching For A King: Muslim Nonviolence And The Future Of Islam



Synopsis

At a time when violent images of the Muslim world dominate our headlines, Western audiences are growing increasingly interested in a different picture of Islam, specifically the idea of Muslim nonviolence, and what it could mean for the world. But is nonviolence compatible with the teachings of Islam? Is it practical to suggest that Muslim societies must adopt nonviolence to thrive in today's world? Where is the Muslim equivalent of a Mohandas K. Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr.? Searching for a King offers a comprehensive look into Islamic conceptions of nonviolence, their modern champions, and their readings of Islam's sacred texts, including the Qur'an and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad. Jeffrey R. Halverson asserts that the foundation for nonviolence in Islam already exists. He points to the exemplary lives and teachings of modern Muslim champions of nonviolence, including Abdul Ghaffar Khan, an ethnic Pashtun from the tribal regions of Pakistan whose 100,000 Muslim followers peacefully resisted British colonial rule in India. Using rich historical narratives and data from leading NGOs and international governmental organizations, Halverson also makes the case that by eliminating the high costs of warfare, nonviolence opens the door to such important complementary initiatives as micro-financing and women's education programs. Ultimately, he endorses Muslim conceptions of nonviolence and argues for the formulation of a nonviolent version of jihad as an active mode of social transformation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is exactly what the media doesn't want to show. The side of Islam that would rather fight with

words and peace, and not with weapons! As the author explains, a jihad "without swords!" Very powerful and informative book. I recommend it to anyone that wants to learn how we can make the world a better place, nonviolently, through education and openmindedness. ~ Daniel Perez

Provides great insight into the politics of Islam and the faith demonstrated by extraordinary individuals seeking peace. Very well written and an excellent book for both the scholar and the person interested in learning more about future of Islam.

Searching for a King provides a provocative counter-argument to those who believe Islam is inherently violent. With so much destruction and violence in Northern Africa and the Middle East, it's important that people around the world be reminded that the actions of radical Islamists don't reflect the feelings and attitudes of all Muslims. By spotlighting some of the greatest Muslim champions of nonviolence, Halverson illustrates a surprisingly deep tradition of peaceful resistance. Whereas Ayaan Hirsi Ali's INFIDEL would seem to suggest that Islam cannot adapt to the 21st century, Halverson's book strikes a more hopeful tone, suggesting that Islam can evolve and flourish by adopting a nonviolent interpretation of jihad. Still, as its title would suggest, the book is a call to action for a leader such as Martin Luther King or Mahatma Ghandi to step forward from the Muslim world. Imagine what a difference such a leader could make at this sensitive time.

Education and nonviolence is the key to peace!

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