

The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West

By Todd H. Green

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American and European societies, particularly in the long wake of the events of 9/11 and the bombings in Madrid and London, have struggled with the recurrent problem of Islamophobia, which continues to surface in waves of controversial legislative proposals, public anger over the construction of religious edifices, and outbreaks of violence. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine contributes fuel to the aggressive debate in Western societies and creates the need for measured discussion about religion, fear, prejudice, otherness, and residual colonialist attitudes. *The Fear of Islam* speaks into this context, offering an introduction to the historical roots and contemporary forms of religious anxiety regarding Islam within the Western world. Tracing the medieval legacy of religious polemics and violence, Green weaves together a narrative that orients the reader to the complex history and issues that originate from this legacy, continuing through to the early and late modern colonial enterprises, the theories of "Orientalism," and the production of religious discourses of alterity and the clash of civilizations that proliferated in the era of 9/11 and the war on terror. The book contains analysis of interviews from figures such as Keith Ellison, John Esposito, Ingrid Mattson, Eboo Patel, Tariq Ramadan, and others.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Todd Green has written a compelling and important book. The future of the West rises and falls on its ability to welcome the contributions of its most diverse elements. Thus, Islamophobia doesn't just hurt Muslims, it weakens Western civilization. Professor Green's book helps us understand the problem and generate creative solutions."—Eboo Patel, Interfaith Youth Core

"Tragically, the ongoing conflicts in many areas of the world seem likely to continue to generate more reports of violence and to reinforce negative attitudes toward Muslims and Islam. Amid this challenge, Green offers a helpful, wide-ranging analysis of major developments together with thoughtful proposals for transforming attitudes and behaviors."—Leo Lefebure, Georgetown University

"This is an extremely important new book. Muslims and Christians together make up well over half of the world's population. Without peace and justice between these two religious communities, there can be no meaningful peace in the world. Our future depends on finding a different way of relating. To this end, the author summarizes encyclopedic information, interprets it clearly, and provides insights that point to a new direction."&#151Richard Olson, Review & Expositor

"Exceptionally well written, organized and presented, ‘The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamopliobia in the West’ is as informed and informative as it is thoughtful and thought-provoking." --John Burroughs, The Midwest Book Review

"This is an outstanding presentation of the history and current state of Islamophobia. Todd Green draws upon reliable studies supplemented by original research to demonstrate how perceptions of Muslims are shaped and distorted, leading to prejudice and fear. Highly recommended for reporters, teachers, and policy makers." Ingrid Mattson, Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario --Ingrid Mattson, Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario

"Islamophobia is a new name but a very old type of racism. Todd Green traces its roots and its rational and ideological objectives. This is a critical and timely contribution, as it shows the complex historical route used in the West to construct the Other, 'the Muslim,' a production of fear that ends up being a great danger for the West itself. Combating Islamophobia starts with analyzing and understanding its origin: this is what the reader will find in this great book, very well documented." --Tariq Ramadan, University of Oxford, St. Anthony's College

About the Author
Todd H. Green is associate professor of religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He is the author of numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals on the topics of Islamophobia and secularization in the West, along with the book *Responding to Secularization: The Deaconess Movement in Nineteenth-Century Sweden* (2011). Green is also the editor of *Islam, Immigration, and Identity* (2014).

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