

Citation metadata

Author: Grace Halsell
Date: June 1998
From: Middle East Policy(Vol. 6, Issue 1)
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
Document Type: Book review
Length: 794 words

Main content

Article Preview :

In Search of Islamic Feminism: One Woman's Global Journey, by Elizabeth Warnock Fernea. New York: Doubleday, 1998.430 pages, with index. \$24.95.

It would perhaps be most satisfying to learn that Western women were agreed as to their goals and their definition of feminism. But that is far from true. And as Elizabeth Fernea learns from her research for her latest book, "In Search of Islamic Feminism," Muslim women also represent a wide variety of aspirations and ideologies that respond to their own self-expressed needs.

Fernea finds one big difference between Western and Islamic feminism. Whereas Western feminism has defined itself over the years as solidly secular, a movement set apart from religion, the Muslim women she interviewed invariably seemed to say religion was part of their lives and could not be divorced from them. Fernea, author of the best-selling *Guests of the Sheik* and *A Street in Marrakech*, traveled to Uzbekistan, Morocco, Kuwait, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Palestine. There, she writes, her encounters with Muslim women forced her to recast her own definition of feminism, as a movement for equality between men and women, a way for women to share the world which has been...

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation

Source Citation

Halsell, Grace. "In Search of Islamic Feminism: One Woman's Global Journey." *Middle East Policy*, vol. 6, no. 1, 1998, p. 176+. Accessed 14 Nov. 2020.

Gale Document Number: GALE|A20909719

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

[Access from your library](#)

Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

role of Islamic feminism as part of an integrated global. Amazon.com: Books about Muslim Women Books about Muslim Women: A Listmania! list by Hoya Turka (Washington. Islam has alw... Books Reviews In Search of Islamic Feminism One Womans Global Journey In her book In Search of Islamic Feminism One Womans Global Journey, Elizabeth Warnock Fernea helps us understand and appreciate Muslim society and its struggle with. In Search of Islamic Feminism: One Woman's Global Journey [Paperback] To the West,

the Islamic world often appears homogeneous and monolithic; the Islam practiced in Iran or Saudi Arabia is our model for Islam everywhere: heavily veiled. In *In Search of Islamic Feminism* has 48 ratings and 7 reviews. the woman's. • Islamic feminism can be better understood through the strategies employed. Ranging from re-interpretation of holy sources to recovering indisputable Islamic rights of women, Islamic feminists challenge patriarchy in multiple ways. • Islamic feminism has elicited strong responses ranging from outright dismissal to enthusiastic approval from sections of the traditional religious establishment as well as some secular feminists. When speaking of Islamic feminism, one must take into account the meaning of the two words that make up this term: Islam and feminism. Islam is not a monolithic entity. The sectarian differences in the belief and practice of Islam, particularly among the Shiites and the Sunnis, introduce a level of complexity that has to be taken into account. "Islamic feminism" would seem a contradiction in terms to most Westerners. We are taught to think of Islam as a culture wherein social code and religious law alike force women to accept male authority and surrender to the veil. How could feminism emerge under such a code, let alone flourish? But one lady has managed to dispel these myths as she goes in search of feminism in Islam. She has the advantage (being a woman) and contacts (her friends from her years of living in Middle East countries) to go into Feminism and Islam can never go hand-in-hand, or so one would think. Interesting read, a woman's personal journey....but nothing was a revelation. Well-written but characters were dry. Not one of those "I can't put it down" books. Xvi, 430 pages : 25 cm. "Islamic feminism" would seem a contradiction in terms to most Americans. We are taught to think of Islam as a culture wherein social code and religious law alike force women to accept male authority and surrender to the veil. How could feminism emerge under such a code, let alone flourish? Now, traveling throughout Central Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, as well as Islamic communities in the United States, acclaimed Arab Studies scholar and bestselling author Elizabeth Fernea sets out to answer that question. Fernea's dialogue with friends, colleagues Only search content I have access to. Home. Log in. In *In Search of Islamic Feminism: One Woman's Global Journey*, by Elizabeth Warnock Fernea. 430 pages, photographs, index. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1998.