HIZBULLAH
POLITICS & RELIGION

AMAL SAAD- GHORAYEB
Critical Studies on Islam

Series editors: Azza Karam (Director of the Women's Programme at the World Conference on Religion and Peace, New York) and Ziauddin Sardar (Visiting Professor of Postcolonial Studies at City University, London)

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Religion, Identity and Otherness in the Analysis of War and Conflict
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Hizbu'llah
Politics and Religion

Amal Saad-Ghorayeb
To my father
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Islam is a complex, ambiguous term. Conventionally it has been used to describe religion, history, culture, civilisation and worldview of Muslims. But it is also impregnated with stereotypes and post-modern notions of identity and boundaries. The diversity of Muslim peoples, cultures, and interpretations, with their baggage of colonial history and post-colonial present, has transformed Islam into a powerful global force.

This unique series presents a far-reaching, critical perspective on Islam. It analyses the diversity and complexity of Islam through the eyes of people who live by it. Provocative and thoughtful works by established as well as younger scholars will examine Islamic movements, the multilayered questions of Muslim identity, the transnational trends of political Islam, the spectre of ethnic conflict, the political economy of Muslim societies and the impact of Islam and Muslims on the West.

The series is built around two fundamental questions. How are Muslims living, thinking and breathing Islam? And how are they rethinking and reformulating it and shaping the global agendas and discourses?

As Critical Studies on Islam seeks to bridge the gap between academia and decision making environments, it will be of particular value to policy makers, politicians, journalists and activists, as well as academics.

Azza Karam is the Director of the Women’s Programme at the World Conference on Religion and Peace, New York. She has published extensively on development, conflict, gender and democratisation issues. She is also author of Islamism, State and Women and co-author of Islam in a Non-Polarized Society.

Ziauddin Sardar is a well-known writer, broadcaster and cultural critic. A Visiting Professor of Postcolonial Studies at the City University, he is considered a pioneering writer on Islam. He is the author of several books for Pluto Press, most recently Aliens R Us.
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'The most detailed and scholarly analysis to date ... Recommended.'
CHOICE

'One of the very best works on the subject.'
Middle East International

'A fine exposition of the evolution and the religious and political philosophy of one of the most important movements in the contemporary Middle East.'
Tribune

Hizbu’lIah is the largest and most prominent political party in Lebanon, and one of the most renowned Islamist movements in the world. In this volume, Amal Saad-Ghorayeb examines the organisation's understanding of jihad and how this, together with its belief in martyrdom, brought about the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Lebanese territory in May 2000.

Saad-Ghorayeb explores the nature of the party's struggle against the West by studying, among other issues, its views on the use of violence against Westerners. Crucially, she also addresses the question of whether Hizbu’lIah depicts this struggle in purely political or civilisational terms. The existential nature of the movement's conflict with Israel is analysed and the Islamic roots of its anti-Judaism is unearthed. The author explores the mechanics and rationale behind the party's integration into the Lebanese political system, and sheds light on how it has reconciled its national identity with its solidarity with the Muslim umma.

Amal Saad-Ghorayeb is an Assistant Professor at the Lebanese American University.

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Cover photograph: by Issam Koubeissi, courtesy of Intiqad magazine
Cover design: mark-making design

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