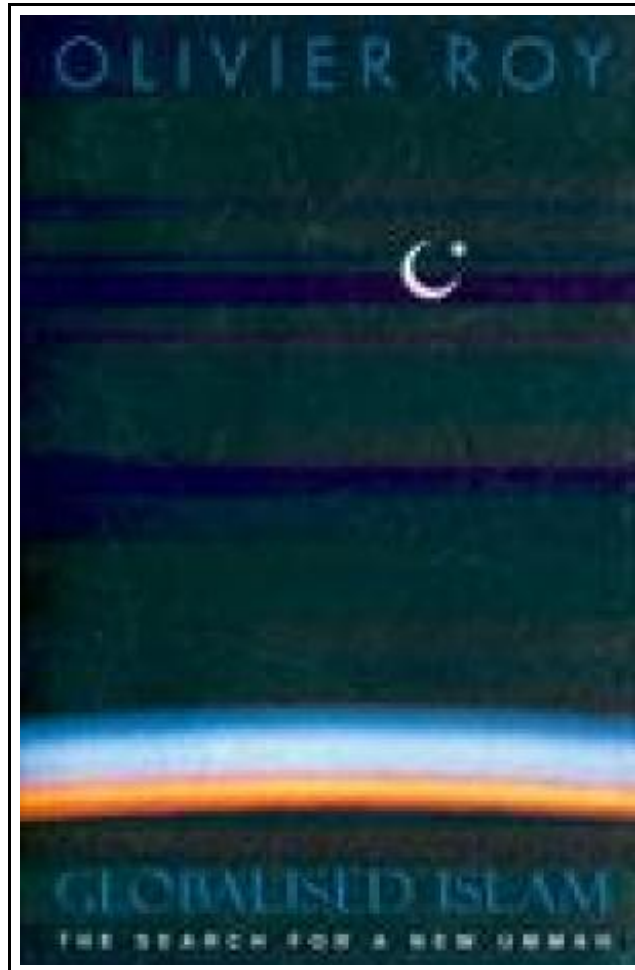


Globalised Islam The Search For A New Ummah



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Reviews

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GLOBALISED ISLAM THE SEARCH FOR A NEW UMMAH

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Alhamra, 2004. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. The sermons of certain imams and interviews with young Muslims indicate a fact of Islam that is quite absent from the pessimistic visions of radical Islamists like Sayyid Qutb. This is the idea that Islam might bring happiness, or at least reconcile the believer with himself, by healing a self divided between faith and materialist aspirations, between tradition and modernity, between what sometimes seems a desolate life and the search for dignity and self-esteem. Such sermons are, of course, primarily addressed to an audience of young people who are experiencing uprootedness, alienation and racism, and vacillate between schizophrenic assimilation and hopeless revolt. But the message of these sermons also addresses the older generation, who, specifically in Western Europe, wonder what they have really achieved in their life, after lately acknowledging that they will not return to their country of origin, but will remain and even be buried in a non-Muslim society, unsure of the fate of their children. The sermons speak about salvation, ultimate ends, the value of life, and self-esteem. They portray a good Muslim as one who is obsessed not by legal norms, but by the meaning of norms, by values and ethics. They insist on social interaction, not on the strict following of norms; they acknowledge the non-Muslim environment as a matter of fact, not as a temporary, anomalous situation. They pragmatically answer concrete requests for advice. But by definition they are confronted with situations that are the result of a brutal mixture of the merging of and confrontation between various values systems. Let us take an example: Question: I am a white American girl who recently gave birth to a child whose father is a Pakistani muslim currently residing in the UK. We wish to marry so that our...

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