

THE CALL OF MODERNITY AND ISLAM

A MUSLIM'S JOURNEY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

The Call Of Modernity And Islam is a timely and welcome anthology of ten scholarly essays that focus creatively on the urgent need to re-energize Islamic culture and institutions.

The essays span an enormous disciplinary range. Professor Khwaja moves back and forth with consummate ease between religion, science, philosophy, history, and the social sciences to paint a fully integrated, big picture of the encounter between Islam and modernity.

In this work he applies the intellectual insights of authentic Islamic liberalism (explained fully in his other books) to the urgent task of developing the robust institutions and cultural norms that will enable Muslims to survive, compete and thrive in today's milieu. The result is a nuanced and insightful examination of perplexing questions such as:

- *How can Islamic civilization regain its socio-political vitality?*
- *How can Muslims living in secular democracies practice true Islam?*
- *How can Muslims explain Islam to Westerners in an idiom they understand?*

These questions hardly mattered to the classical Muslim divines who operated at a time when Islamic civilization was dominant. But that was then. Today, in the age of science and pluralism, it is Western paradigms that set the tone. This is the defining reality and dilemma for Muslims of all stripes.

The Author proposes a sensible intellectual framework that shows how the much sought after renaissance of the Islamic world can be achieved. His courage to make a new beginning is rooted in deeply held beliefs about the merciful guidance of God, the absolute veracity of the Quran and the authenticity of His messenger Muhammad.

The Author does not shy away from controversial issues. Instead he uses the best available knowledge and research to give the reader richer insights into the core issues. His approach is characterized by a humble quest for truth. Sterile polemics and the, 'I must always win' approach is scrupulously avoided.

At once scholarly and wise, God willing, this book will have a transformative impact on both the lay reader and the specialist. It will appeal greatly to all Muslims who desire to see their faith renewed from within.

Acclaim for past books by Jamal Khwaja:

"Here is a book written with a notable lucidity, characterized by wisdom and tolerance, and remarkable for the range and comprehensiveness of its survey."

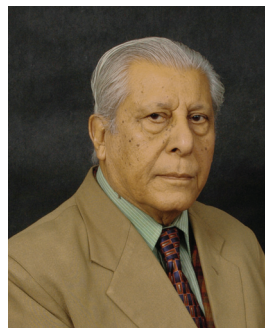
— Prof. I.T. Ramsey, University of Oxford.

"I found, it most interesting and informative and very clearly expressed."

— Prof. C.D. Broad, University of Cambridge.

"I congratulate you on its excellent content and clarity of exposition."

— Prof. John Wisdom, University of Cambridge.



Jamal Khwaja
Los Angeles, 2008

About the Author:

Born in 1928, Jamal Khwaja, has devoted a lifetime to the challenge of living the Quran with integrity. His forefathers worked closely with Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, and with Mahatma Gandhi. Khwaja studied philosophy in India, England, and Germany. In 1957 he was elected to the Indian Parliament. However, his engagement with power politics was short lived. In 1962 he returned to his beloved, scholarly & contemplative lifestyle at the Aligarh Muslim University. He retired as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Philosophy.

Jamal Khwaja has written seven major books. Anyone interested in the intersection of Islam and Modernity will find Khwaja to be a reliable guide. His work is magisterial in scope. It is full of passion but remains balanced in perspective. Readers of his work will be in turn, informed, inspired, and intellectually liberated.

Soft Bound: \$24.95 US / \$29.95 CAN

ISBN-13: 978-1-935293-94-1

e-book: \$19.95 US

Genre: Non Fiction

Audience (BISAC Code):

- RELIGION / Islam / General
- SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology of Religion
- RELIGION / Religion, Politics & State

Page Count: 300. **Trim Size:** 6"/9"

Date of Publication: October, 2010

Marketing Campaign

- Advance Reader's Copies Available
- Major print reviews and features
- Online publicity campaign



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