

Modern Islamic Political Thought by Hamid Enayat.
Foreword by Roy P. Mottahadeh. I.B.Tauris 2005

The swirling tempests of the Islamic world dominate the Western agenda post 9/11 and the war in Iraq. An enormous amount is publicly stated about Islam which even intelligent men and women may be insufficiently well informed to judge for accuracy. In addition, government spokespeople seek to define Islam, usually inaccurately, in an unsubtle attempt to influence popular opinion. In this environment reliable, intellectually unimpeachable sources of information are vital, and Modern Islamic Political Thought is one such source.

Hamid Enayat, who died prematurely in 1980 CHECK, was considered one of the finest scholars of modern Islam of his generation, uniquely well-versed in Arabic and Persian and their respective cultures. Although written when the reverberations of the Iranian revolution were still very strong, much of what he wrote in CHECK DATE still stands true even after the events of the last 25 years.

Modern Islamic Political Thought is replete with valuable information, most especially on the historical relationship between Shi-ism and Sunnism, the concept of the Islamic State, and Shi-i modernism.

Although some of the names may challenge English readers, Modern Islamic Political Thought is an essential read for all those trying to understand what makes the Islamic world tick.

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