

The Fall-out - how a guilty liberal lost his innocence by Andrew Anthony.
Jonathan Cape 2007.

The Fall-out is part autobiography/part reflection on the way global events since September 11th 2001 have affected the way we live and think.

Andrew Anthony came from a very ordinary background and, through tenacity and hard work, propelled himself into journalism, ultimately reaching the highest levels as a columnist. He had always been a fully-paid up member of the liberal left, and, much more than most, had put himself where his ideals were, by going to Nicaragua in the 1980s in support of the Sandinistas.

Yet the events of 9/11, and everything that has followed there from, not least the radicalisation of British and other Muslims as epitomised by the Danish cartoon 'affair' brought him to the inescapable conclusion that many of the nostrums that he had cherished were either out of date or had never held real credibility.

Anthony writes well, and with passion, and I suspect that many similarly erstwhile liberals will find themselves agreeing with much, if not all, that he says. Apart from everything else, The Fall-out is a potent representation of the fear, frustration and dislike that Islamist fundamentalism has provoked, especially in the heart of those who might previously have fallen over backwards to accommodate all shades of opinion in a democracy such as ours.

The Fall-out is a reminder to all its readers of the seismic change that has occurred since September 2001, and of the very real risks that it poses to us all.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh