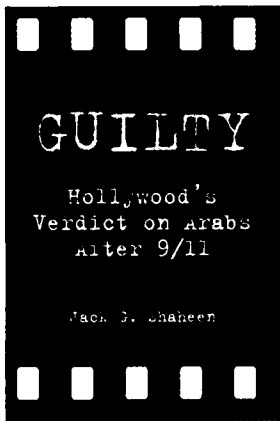


REVIEWS

Merchants of Hate



Guilty: Hollywood's Verdict on Arabs after 9/11
Jack G. Shaheen
2008. pp. 222. PB. \$18.00
Olive Branch Press, Northampton, MA

influence. While Hollywood has eliminated many stereotypes, those related to Arabs and Muslims remain untouched. Shaheen notes: "In conjunction with current events, filmmakers have mixed and embellished new and polluted stereotypes with old, familiar ones." In the early 1900s, he notes that Arabs appeared as sex-crazed savages. In the 1960s, however, the "stereotyping of Arabs began to accelerate with the Israeli-Palestinian issue." After the 1973 war and the 1979-80 Iranian hostage crisis, "the reel Palestinians appeared not as a real displaced people but as reel 'terrorists.'" And post-9/11, the "obese oily sheiks were dispatched to the dressing rooms to make room for the new head attraction: Arab as crazed Islamic fundamentalist bent on destruction."

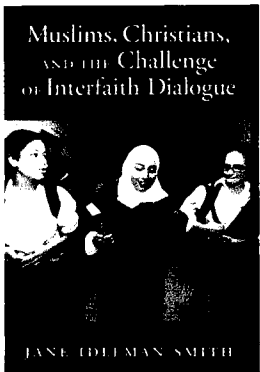
Jack Shaheen, author of the groundbreaking book "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People" (Olive Branch Press: 2000), has added a new book to his accomplishments as a one-man anti-defamation machine: "Guilty: Hollywood's Verdict on Arabs after 9/11."

Shaheen, who has spent the seven years since 9/11 reviewing more than 100 Hollywood productions, finds that Hollywood continues to portray Arabs and Muslims as terrorists, killers, and other villainous characters. A professor emeritus of mass communication, he is concerned about the dangers of such a stance due to Hollywood's global

Interfaith Lives

Jane Smith, who is a professor of Islamic studies at Hartford Seminary, examines America's Christian-Muslim dialogue, contextualized both through the history of Islam and of the contemporary West. Her work reflects her dialogue with the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, local ecumenical councils, and churches and denominations as well as with various Muslim individuals and organizations.

Smith asks what progress has been made through this dialogue, what happens when it fails, and what direction it will take in the future. She examines the recent Catholic and Protestant theological writings about dialogue and pluralism, and shows that since 9/11 a few Muslim scholars in the West have also begun to write about these issues. Many Christians and Muslims, she says, are expressing their desire to move beyond theological discussion into the "dialogue of engagement," as evidenced by initiatives among young people, women, and African Americans looking for ways to work together in local projects of justice and community service. Throughout the book, one hears the participants' personal voices.



Muslims, Christians, and the Challenge of Interfaith Dialogue
Jane I. Smith
2008. pp. 200. HB. \$25.00
Oxford University Press, USA

Short Takes



Mahmoud Darwish, Exile's Poet: Critical Essays
Hala Khamis Nassar and Najat Rahman, eds.
2008. pp. 392. PB. \$25.00.
Olive Branch Press (Interlink), Northampton, MA

Darwish, whose poems have been published in more than thirty volumes, is considered by many to be Palestine's most important poet. A group of scholars and critics offer their views of a poet who is profoundly concerned with his country: Palestine.

Arts of the City Victorious: Islamic Art and Architecture in Fatimid North Africa and Egypt



J. M. Bloom
2008. pp. 236, with 100 b/w and 50 color illustrations.
HB. \$75.00.
Yale University Press, New Haven, CT

Published in association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies, this is the first detailed study of the art and architecture of the Fatimids, the Ismaili Shiah dynasty that ruled North Africa and Egypt from 909-1171 and founded the city of al-Qahirah (Cairo) in 969.



Ottoman Women: Myth and Reality
Asli Sancar
2008. pp. 190, illustrated.
PB. \$29.95. The Light, Inc., Somerset, NJ

Sancar has documented the various societal views about Ottoman women, whom the Orientalists' tales described negatively while admirers put them on a pedestal. Sancar's is a new look into the world of Ottoman women.



World Tribunal on Iraq: Making the Case against War
Muge Gursoy Sokmen, ed.; Arundhati Roy (Introduction); and Richard Falk (Introduction)
2008. pp. 562. PB. \$25.00.
Olive Branch Press (Interlink), Northampton, MA

More than fifty internationally renowned experts gathered at the "World Tribunal of Iraq" in Istanbul on 23-27 June 2005 to document the war's history not from the "victor's" point of view, but from that of the temporarily vanquished.

Asian Islam

Asian Islam in the 21st Century



John L. Esposito, John O. Voll, Osman Bakar, eds.
2008. pp. 320. HB/PB.
\$25.00. Oxford University Press, New York

This collection is the result of a 2003 conference held in Hawaii, at which scholars offered an insightful portrait of the rich diversity of Muslim politics and discourse that continues to affect Asia's Muslim majority and minority countries.

Race and Arab Americans

Race and Arab Americans before and after 9/11: From Invisible Citizens to Visible Subjects



Amanay Jamal and Nadine Naber, eds.
2008. pp. 378. HB/PB.
\$29.95. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, NY

These essays highlight emergent discourses on how race matters to the study of Arab-American histories and asks essential questions. It also locates 9/11 as a turning point, rather than a beginning, in the history of Arab-American engagements with race, multiculturalism, and Americanization.