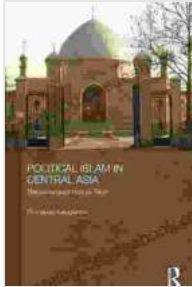


Political Islam In Central Asia: Historical Roots, Contemporary Manifestations, and Regional Implications



Political Islam in Central Asia: The challenge of Hizb ut-Tahrir (Central Asian Studies Book 21)

by Emmanuel Karagiannis

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

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Print length : 194 pages



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Political Islam, a term often used to describe the interplay between religion and politics within Muslim-majority societies, has emerged as a prominent force in Central Asia. This article delves into the historical roots, contemporary manifestations, and regional implications of Political Islam in this strategically significant region.

Historical Roots:

Islam has been an integral part of Central Asian culture for centuries. During the Arab conquests of the 7th century, Islam spread throughout the region, shaping its religious and social landscape. Over time, Central Asia became a hub for Islamic scholarship and a center of Sufi mysticism.

In the early 20th century, anti-colonial movements in Central Asia incorporated Islamic ideas and symbols into their struggles. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Islam experienced a revival as newly independent Central Asian states grappled with the challenges of nation-building and economic transition.



Contemporary Manifestations:

Political Islam in Central Asia manifests itself in various forms. Some political parties and movements advocate for the implementation of Islamic law or the establishment of Islamic states. Other groups engage in social activism, providing education, healthcare, and other services to communities.

There are also individuals and networks who promote radical ideologies and violence in the name of Islam. However, it's important to note that

Political Islam is not synonymous with terrorism; the vast majority of Muslims reject extremist violence.

Specific Countries:

Uzbekistan:

Uzbekistan has experienced a resurgence of Islamic activism since independence. The government has taken a strict approach towards religious expression, cracking down on unauthorized religious organizations and individuals.

Kazakhstan:

Kazakhstan has a relatively tolerant approach to Islam. The government has engaged with religious leaders and provided support for mosques and educational institutions.

Kyrgyzstan:

Kyrgyzstan has a vibrant Islamic community, with a range of political and social organizations. The country has faced challenges in managing the influence of radical groups.

Turkmenistan:

Turkmenistan has a tightly controlled religious environment. The government restricts Islamic expression and has banned religious organizations not approved by the state.

Tajikistan:

Tajikistan has experienced a violent conflict between the government and Islamist groups. The civil war of the 1990s was fueled by religious and political tensions.

Regional Implications:

Political Islam in Central Asia has significant implications for the region and beyond. It shapes government policies, international relations, and security dynamics.

Geopolitics:

Central Asia's location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East makes it a strategic geopolitical region. The presence of Political Islam has attracted the attention of global powers, who seek to influence events in the area.

Security:

The potential for radicalism and terrorism poses a security challenge in Central Asia. Governments and international organizations are working to prevent and combat extremist activity.

Inter-Religious Relations:

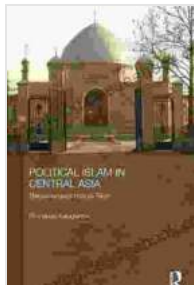
Political Islam has the potential to affect inter-religious relations within Central Asia. There have been instances of tensions between Muslims and other religious groups, particularly in countries where religious freedom is restricted.

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Political Islam is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon in Central Asia. Its historical roots, contemporary manifestations, and regional implications continue to shape the political and social landscapes of the region. Understanding the intricacies of Political Islam is essential for navigating its

challenges and harnessing its potential for constructive dialogue and cooperation.

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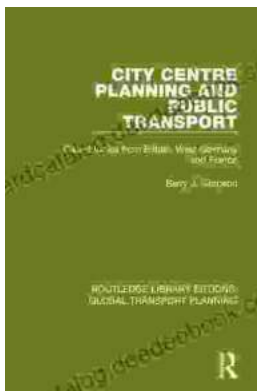


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