

FAITH  
and  
POWER

*The Politics of Islam*

Edward Mortimer



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...e world has been rocked by what some have called an  
...on, and Islam—a civilization nearly as old as  
... frequently been dismissed in the West as simple  
...ment born of remarkable ignorance and chauvinism.  
... more complex, a political phenomenon as well as a  
... *Faith and Power* is a highly informative and objective account  
... of Islam” and their significance today.

Edward Mortimer—foreign and Middle East specialist for the *London Times*—demonstrates that the Islamic approach to politics derives from the experience of past generations of Muslims, and shows how the ascendancy of Western technical, military and political power throughout the nineteenth century threatened to reduce Islam to a mere cultural heritage. Mr. Mortimer then analyzes the political interpretations of Islam developed by Muslims in the twentieth century, and describes in detail the role Islam plays today in six very different Muslim societies: Turkey; Saudi Arabia; Pakistan; the central Arab world including Egypt; Iran; and the Muslim regions of the Soviet Union.

Thus the reader is enabled to see such events as the Iranian Revolution and the death of Anwar al-Sadat in their regional and cultural context, and to understand that Islam provides the form and vocabulary of political action but does not determine its content. In short, there is no single “Islam,” and instead a complexity and diversity that the West must understand and appreciate in order to respond wisely to Muslim movements that influence the delicate balance of the Middle East and of the power-rivalry between NATO and the Soviet bloc.

**“Honest, wise, timely. Edward Mortimer’s book is essential reading for anyone wanting to understand the complexities of Islam.”**

**—Robert Lacey**

**“Of all the books about the ‘resurgence of Islam’ which have appeared since the Iranian revolution, [*Faith and Power*] is the one which I could give with the greatest confidence to a general reader.... It is very well informed and substantially accurate, written with force and clarity, and full of original ideas and sound judgments.”**

**—Albert Hourani**