

ISLAM, GENDER, & SOCIAL CHANGE

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& John L. Esposito

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For several decades, the Muslim world has experienced a religious resurgence. The reassertion of Islam in personal and political life has taken many forms, from greater attention to religious practice to the emergence of Islamic organizations, movements, and institutions. One of the most controversial and emotionally charged aspects of this revival has been its effect on women in Muslim societies.

The essays collected in this book place this issue in its historical context and offer case studies of Muslim societies from North Africa to Southeast Asia. These fascinating studies shed light on the impact of the Islamic resurgence on gender issues in Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Oman, Bahrain, the Philippines, and Kuwait. Taken together, the essays reveal the wide variety that exists among Muslim societies and believers, and the complexity of the issues under consideration. They show that new things are happening for women across the Islamic world, and are in many cases being initiated by women themselves. The volume as a whole militates against the stereotype of Muslim women as repressed, passive, and without initiative, while acknowledging the very real obstacles to women's initiatives in most of these societies.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad is Professor of History of Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations at Georgetown University. She is the author of *Islamic Values in the United States: A Comparative Study* (Oxford, 1987), *Mission to America: Five Islamic Sectarian Communities in North America*, and editor of *The Muslims of America* (Oxford, 1993).

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: Entering the outer gate to the Mosque of Selim II, Edirne, Turkey. PHOTO: Walter B. Denny.



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