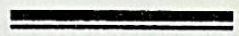


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AHMED RASHID

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Islam or Nationalism?



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'Ahmed Rashid is one of Pakistan's most gifted and astute political commentators. This account will be of interest to scholars and lay readers alike. What makes it especially valuable is that Rashid's priorities are very different from those of most Western observers.'

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AHMED RASHID has written a uniquely informed account of the Region's recent emergence from obscurity to independence. The break-up of the USSR catapulted five new states on to the world stage – Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. All have Muslim majorities and ancient histories; for the rest, they are very different from one another. This book covers the history, as well as geography, of each country, and describes each one's economy and social system under communism and the new realities that have emerged since.

The author focuses on the underlying issues confronting these societies today – the legacy of Soviet rule; ethnic tensions; the position of women; the future of Islam; the question of nuclear proliferation; and the economic and environmental problems that they all face.

He also explores the attitudes of the outside world, especially the reactions of neighbouring Muslim countries to the sudden emergence of five new Muslim states on their doorstep, and discusses the fundamental choices ahead over economic strategy, political system and the future roles of nationalism and Islam.

AHMED RASHID was educated at the University of Cambridge. He is a respected journalist who, in addition to writing for the Pakistan press, is the Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia Bureau Chief for the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and the *Daily Telegraph*, London.

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