

ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS: Impact on Political Stability in the Arab World. By Abdulwahhab El-Effendi. Abu Dhabi: The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies. 2004. ISBN 9948005465. Pp. 752.

The Islamic movement is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has emerged in the Muslim world over the past few decades. It has taken various forms, from peaceful and democratic activism to violent extremism, and has been shaped by a range of factors, including historical, political, social, and cultural contexts. Understanding the Islamic movement and its significance in the contemporary Muslim world is therefore a crucial task for scholars and policymakers alike. In his chapter "Islamic Movement: Establishment, Significance and Contextual Realities," in the book entitled *Islamic Movements in the Arab World*, Abdulwahhab El-Affendi offers a rich and nuanced analysis of the Islamic movement and its role in the Muslim world. This paper provides a comprehensive review of El-Affendi's article, highlighting its key arguments, strengths, and limitations.

El-Affendi's article begins by tracing the historical roots of the Islamic movement, from its origins in the 19th century Islamic revivalist movements to its current manifestations in the contemporary Muslim world. He argues that the Islamic movement emerged as a response to the challenges posed by colonialism, modernization, and secularism, and that it has been shaped by a range of factors, including political repression, economic deprivation, and cultural alienation. El-Affendi also emphasizes the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the Islamic movement, noting that it encompasses a range of different groups, ideologies, and practices.

Islamic Movement: Establishment, Significance, and Contextual Realities is a book chapter written by Abdulwahhab El-Affendi, a renowned scholar and professor of politics. The chapter provides an in-depth analysis of the Islamic movement and its historical, cultural, and political context. It is a comprehensive work that covers various aspects of the Islamic movement and its evolution, from its inception to its present form.

The author begins by discussing the historical context of the Islamic movement and its establishment. He notes that the Islamic movement can be traced back to the early days of Islam when the Prophet Muhammad founded the religion. He then goes on to discuss the significant events in the history of the Islamic movement, including the rise of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula and the subsequent spread of the religion to other parts of the world. The author also highlights the role of Islamic scholars and leaders in shaping the direction of the movement, and the political and cultural factors that have influenced its development.

The author then moves on to discuss the significance of the Islamic movement, both for its followers and for the broader society. He notes that the Islamic movement has played a significant role in shaping the political and cultural landscape of the Muslim world, and has been a major influence on the development of Islamic culture and civilization. The author also argues that the Islamic movement has been a powerful force for social justice and equality, and has helped to empower marginalized communities and promote human rights.

The article concludes by discussing the contextual realities of the Islamic movement in the present day. The author notes that the movement is facing various challenges and obstacles, including political and economic instability, cultural and religious conflicts, and the rise of extremist and radical groups. He argues that the Islamic movement must continue to evolve and adapt to the changing context in order to remain relevant and effective in promoting its values and goals.

The author's treatment of the subject is balanced and nuanced, and he provides a wealth of historical and cultural context to help the reader understand the evolution of the Islamic movement. He is able to provide a detailed analysis of the various components of the movement, including its religious, political, and cultural dimensions, and how they interact with each other.

One of the strengths of the book chapter is the author's ability to provide a critical perspective on the Islamic movement. He is able to identify both the strengths and weaknesses of the movement, and provides a nuanced view of the challenges that it faces. He also provides a historical and cultural analysis of the factors that have influenced the development of the movement, and how these factors have shaped its trajectory.

He highlights the diversity and complexity of the movement, arguing that it is not a monolithic entity but rather a diverse phenomenon that encompasses a wide range of political, social, and cultural activities. This is an important point, as it challenges the simplistic and reductionist narratives that often dominate discussions of the Islamic movement. El-Affendi's analysis also highlights the internal tensions and contradictions within the movement, such as the tension between the desire for Islamic governance and the need to engage with secular political systems.

Another strength of the article is its historical analysis of the Islamic movement. El-Affendi provides a detailed overview of the historical context in which the movement emerged, tracing its roots to the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the Islamic reformist movements that emerged in response to this. This historical analysis is valuable, as it provides a deeper understanding of the factors that led to the growth and development of the movement.

Another strengths of the article is its emphasis on the diversity of the Islamic movement, and its recognition of the multiple strands of thought and practice that exist within it. El-Affendi acknowledges that there are many different interpretations of Islam and ways of understanding the relationship between religion and politics, and this recognition is an important step towards greater dialogue and understanding between different groups.

Another strength of the article is its exploration of the relationship between the Islamic movement and the wider Muslim community. El-Affendi notes that the Islamic movement has often been seen as an outsider by many Muslims, and that it must find ways to connect with the broader Muslim community and address their concerns and needs. This is an important point, as it suggests that the Islamic movement must be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the wider Muslim community, and must find ways to build bridges and foster greater unity and solidarity within the Muslim world.

The article also provides a useful analysis of the significance of the Islamic movement. El-Affendi argues that the movement has had a profound impact on the political and social landscape of the Muslim world, mobilizing large segments of the population and challenging the legitimacy of secular nationalist regimes. He also notes that the movement has contributed to the emergence of a new Islamic identity that is distinct from traditional forms of Islamic culture and practice. This analysis is important, as it highlights the transformative potential of the Islamic movement and its impact on Muslim societies.

One potential limitation of the article is its focus on the Islamic movement as a political force. While the article provides a valuable analysis of the political aspects of the movement, it could benefit from a more nuanced analysis of the cultural and social dimensions of the movement. For example, the article could explore the role of the Islamic movement in shaping Islamic art, literature, and music, or in promoting alternative models of family and community life. In addition to the strengths and limitations of the article mentioned above, there are a few other points to consider.

Another important aspect of the article is its analysis of the global context in which the Islamic movement has developed. El-Affendi notes that the movement has been influenced by a range of factors, including colonialism, globalization, and the decline of traditional sources of authority in the Muslim world. This analysis is important, as it highlights the ways in which broader global trends and historical processes have shaped the development of the Islamic movement.

The article also raises important questions about the future of the Islamic movement. El-Affendi highlights the challenges facing the movement, including the rise of extremism and violence, as well as the complex political and social realities of the Muslim world. He argues that the Islamic movement must find ways to navigate these challenges in order to remain relevant and effective. This is an important point, as it suggests that the Islamic movement must continue to evolve and adapt in response to changing circumstances in order to remain a significant force in the Muslim world.

Moreover, the article also explores the relationship between the Islamic movement and other political and social forces in the Muslim world, including secular nationalist movements and Islamist groups. This analysis is valuable, as it highlights the complex interplay between different political and social forces in the Muslim world, and the ways in which these forces interact with and influence each other.

Furthermore, the article also emphasizes the need for a more critical and self-reflective approach within the Islamic movement. El-Affendi argues that the movement must engage in more open and honest dialogue with itself and with other groups, and must be willing to question its assumptions and beliefs. This is an important point, as it suggests that the Islamic movement must be willing to engage in self-criticism and introspection in order to address its own shortcomings and challenges.

Additionally, the article also discusses the relationship between the Islamic movement and the state, and the challenges posed by authoritarian regimes and state repression. El-Affendi notes that the Islamic movement has often been targeted by repressive governments, and that the movement

must find ways to navigate these challenges while maintaining its commitment to democracy and human rights. This analysis is particularly relevant in the current context, where many Muslim-majority countries are facing political instability, violence, and repression.

Abdulwahhab El-Affendi's article "Islamic Movement: Establishment, Significance and Contextual Realities" provides a rich and nuanced analysis of the Islamic movement and its role in the contemporary Muslim world. The article's exploration of the historical, political, social, and cultural dimensions of the movement, as well as its emphasis on the need for critical self-reflection and engagement with other groups, make it a valuable contribution to the field of Islamic studies. By providing a more complex and nuanced understanding of the Islamic movement and its significance in the Muslim world, the article challenges simplistic and reductionist narratives, and offers insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the movement in the years to come.

The book chapter is also significant in that it provides a window into the Islamic movement from an insider's perspective. The author's own background as a Muslim scholar and researcher gives him a unique perspective on the movement, and allows him to provide a nuanced analysis that is not often found in Western-authored works on the subject.

Overall, Abdulwahhab El-Affendi's article provides a valuable and insightful analysis of the Islamic movement and its role in the contemporary Muslim world. By exploring the historical, political, social, and cultural dimensions of the movement, as well as its relationship to the state, the Muslim community, and the wider world, the article offers a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the movement and its significance. While there are some limitations to the article, such as its focus primarily on the Sunni Islamic movement and its limited exploration of the cultural and social dimensions of the movement, these do not detract from its overall value and importance. By providing a more complex and nuanced understanding of the Islamic movement and its place in the Muslim world, the article offers insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the movement in the years to come, and highlights the importance of critical self-reflection, engagement with other groups, and adaptation to changing circumstances.

In conclusion, *Islamic Movement: Establishment, Significance, and Contextual Realities* is a well-written and thought-provoking book that provides a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the Islamic movement and its context. The author's research is thorough and his writing style is engaging and accessible. The book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in understanding the Islamic movement and its role in shaping the Muslim world. Whether you are a student of politics, religion, or history, this book provides a rich and nuanced understanding of one of the most significant movements of our time.

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