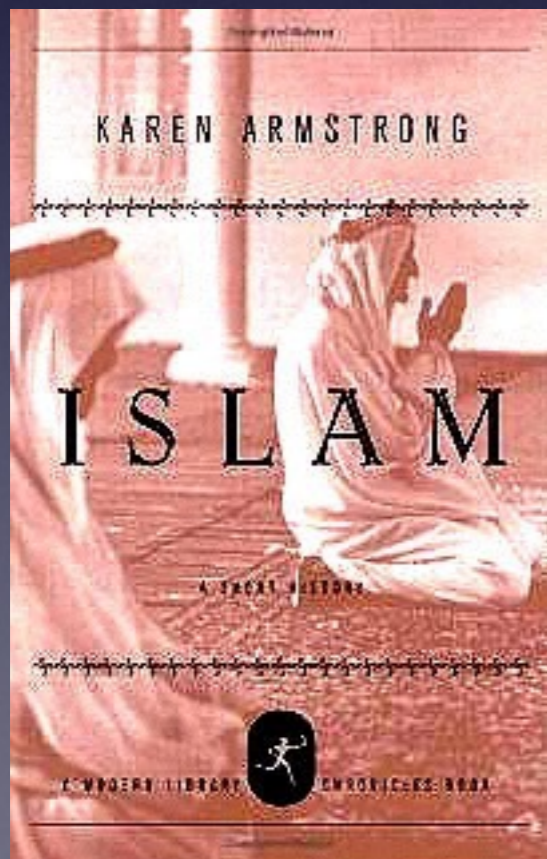


Israel - Palestine 2 studies

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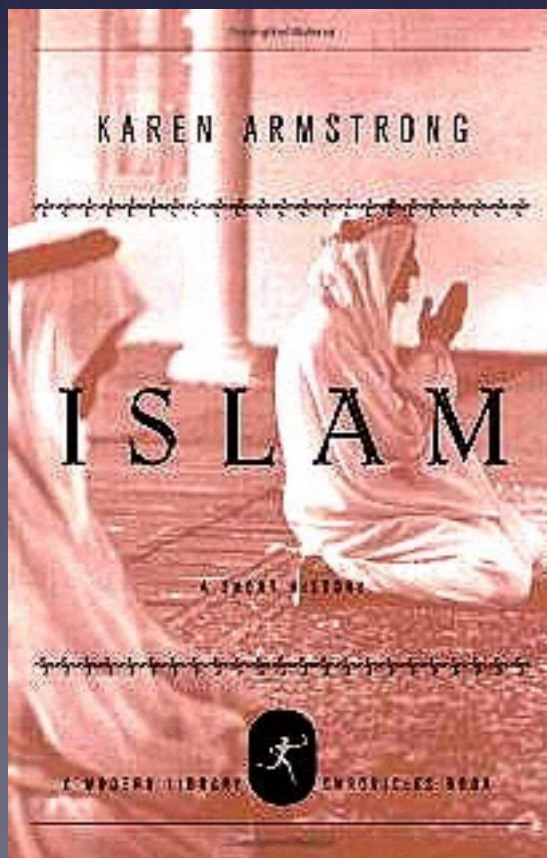


Islam: A Short History

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Session # 10

- Opening
- Introductions
- Chapter Summaries
- Media
- Discussions
- Closing



Opening

Deb Charnuski

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Introductory thoughts and images:

1. Jerash, Jordan.

2. Arab Bagpipe Band

3. St. Anne's Church - the Global Church - Choirs singing from over the world. "The global church is passing before our eyes.

4. Noam Chomsky summarizing the current political solution to the Israel/Palestine problem. A handout and a short video

Jerash, Jordan





10/21/2015











Video by Mike Trew
Jerash, Jordan
and ancient Roman ruins.



BETHESDA

St. Anne









Holy Mother
Annals
Pray for us









Tour members singing
Donna Nobis Pacem
in St. Anne's Church
Bethesda, Jerusalem

A video by Charles Park.









Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Definition of “Agoniste”

protagonist, the leading character or one of the major characters in a drama, movie or novel.

The Purpose of this chapter:

To discover some of the movements - within and beyond mainstream Islam - that continue to affect and influence our world today.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

A lesson can we learn from history:

Historical cycles are large. They cover centuries.

Learning from history must come from understanding these larger cycles as well as more immediate ones.

We need to attend to more immediate developments since they can influence larger developments.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

What can we learn from Islamic history?

Armstrong leads us through a concentrated review of the fourteen centuries of the youngest religion of Jerusalem.

We cannot understand what is going on in the Islamic world today without an awareness of its past.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Islam: A Short History

The author helps us discover how Islam was formed, and how it has evolved from the time of the Prophet, through the early communities (ummahs), the era of the caliphates, the three major empires known as the Safavid (Mesopotamia) Moghul (India and the east) and Ottoman (Turkey, North Africa and the West). and ultimately into modernity.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

In this chapter, we enter the era of national Islamic states with their own unique Islamic characteristics.

Our final chapter deals with the evolving modern principle characters of the Islamic drama - centered in such nations as Turkey, Egypt Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Armstrong also touches on countries like Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Jordan - as well as other "lesser" actors in the modern Islamic story.

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The arrival of the West, and particularly Israel onto Islamic "territory" in the 19th-21st centuries sets the stage for some key summary thoughts.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Trade, colonialism and globalization - are three modern movements that force East and West to deal with each other like never before.

Globalization also means a world "blending" of cultures and religions - so that the earth's peoples are "integrating" in new ways.. That also means we are "bumping up against each other" in new ways as well.

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In addition:

We reconsider the first book in this study: "Chosen" - and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" - to try to make some "connections." between the faiths.

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Important point:

Islam has always linked religion and politics.

For many centuries of its early history this was also true for Israel. Judaism in modern Israel appears to link a religion and a nation in a very unique way as well..

Christianity has always preferred to keep religion and politics "at arms length" even though there were many eras of exception.

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It was in the Christian West that the reality of the secular state emerged. In it, government and the law supposedly "stand above" the religions to keep them at peace.

The secular state has often shown disrespect or misunderstanding of the faith traditions.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Secularization has never co-existed easily with Islam.

Islamic states that attempt to secularize usually tend to have a bumpy ride with religion, over time

Still, democracies of various kinds seem to be preferred by most of the earth's peoples, and that includes Islamic peoples.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

The Muslim countries are in the midst of great struggles to determine what democracy means for them.

Western countries with longer histories of democracy-building need to understand that Islamic countries have different histories and differing views of what democracy means.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

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Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Colonialism and globalization have hit Islamic peoples hard and they have in many ways been "humiliated" by both. Many within and without Islam consider Islam "backward"

The idea of a "modern Islamic state" is still in the formation-stage, in spite of many attempts (as in Turkey, Egypt, Iran, and other countries.)

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Fundamentalism - has emerged in Islam as a unique form of protest against modernism. It means something different than it does in the West.

We must not equate "fundamentalism" with "Islam" even though there are Islamic fundamentalists.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Fundamentalism reveals a fissure in Islamic and other societies, which are polarized between those who enjoy secular culture and those who view it with dread

Fundamentalism is a defensive movement. It develops in people who fear something they cherish (like their faith) is being threatened with loss

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Fundamentalism has emerged in all the great faiths - not just the religions of Jerusalem, but also the Eastern faiths.

Fundamentalism appears to be strongest among people who are economically and educationally less fortunate.

Still, peaceful faith traditions have served to raise many from impoverishment - in both East and West - among Muslims and non-Muslims.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

As we have seen, such peaceful movements (e.g. Ismaili, Gulen, etc) have been emerging in Islam, in modern times. May they continue!

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Islam is also concerned about women's rights in many cultures.

Many Islamic women around the world have very progressive ideas, even though they appear veiled in public. Why?

"You can be modern, but not secular"

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

It appears that many Muslims want to participate in modernity, but on their own terms.

The cultivation of decent human values lies at the heart of all the great faiths.

Inter-faith challenges remain great today, but opportunities to break down barriers have never been greater.

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

Much of Western hostility towards Islam springs from ignorance.

The people of Europe and North America continue to be unaware of Islamic faith, history and other aspects of Muslim life.

A course like this one is an attempt to counter that ignorance and lack of awareness..

Noam Chomsky

1 or 2 State Solution?

Noam Chomsky summarizing the current political solution to the Israel/Palestine problem.

Handout - Chomsky answering a Quora question “What do you view as the best route to peace between Israel and Palestine? - Or, if not the best route because there is no single best route, a good route?”

Video 2m35s. 2014. 1 or 2 State Solution?



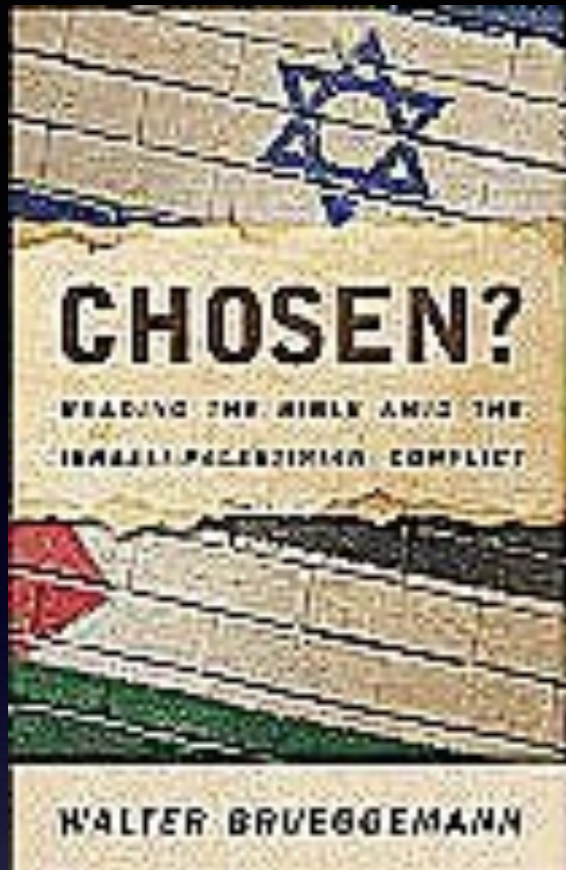
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQMGoEEPU_4

Discussion Questions

1. What have I learned from the book "Chosen?"
2. What have I learned from "Islam: A Short History"?
3. What concrete steps do I want to take after completing this course?

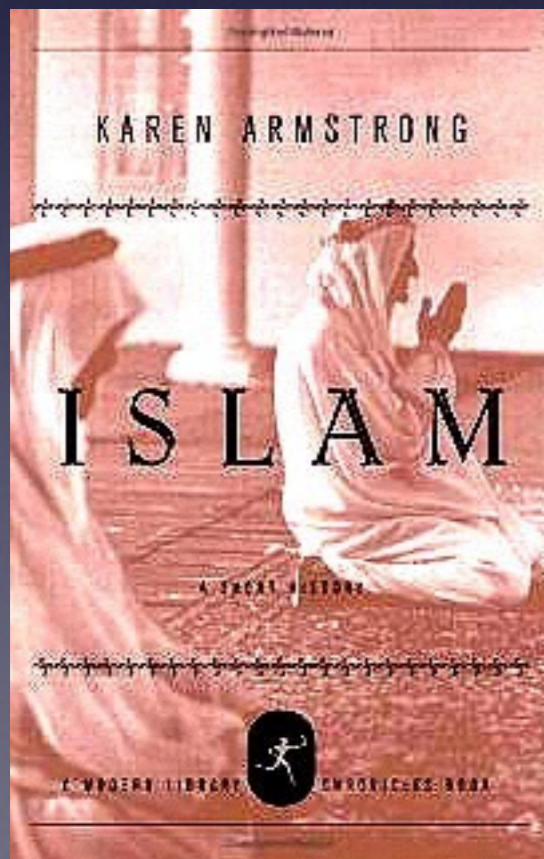
Break

Closing Sally Hodges



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Study Website:

<http://chosen.stdavidscalgary.net>