



EMRAN QURESHI
MICHAEL A. SELLS
EDITORS

THE NEW CRUSADES

CONSTRUCTING THE MUSLIM ENEMY



The *New Crusades* takes head-on the idea of an emergent “Cold War” between Islam and the West. As conflicts continue to proliferate around the globe, the perception of a colossal, unyielding, and unavoidable struggle between Islam and the West has intensified. These numerous conflicts, both actual and ideological, have revived fears of an ongoing “clash of civilizations”—an intractable and irreconcilable conflict of values between Western cultures and an Islam that is portrayed as hostile and alien. Bringing together twelve of the most influential thinkers in Middle Eastern and religious studies—including Edward Said, Roy Mottahedeh, and Fatema Mernissi—this timely collection confronts such depictions of the Arab-Islamic world, showing their inner workings and how they both empower and shield from scrutiny Islamic radicals who operate from similar paradigms of inevitable and absolute conflict.

“The learned, subtle, and often brilliant essays in this volume offer a far richer and more nuanced view of Islam and the West than the strident simple-mindedness of too many politicians and pundits these days. The range of subject matter is in itself mind-broadening, the intellectual level high, and the selection of contributors impressive. The late Eqbal Ahmad, to whom this volume is dedicated, would have felt honored, and his many friends and admirers can feel that his work is here carried on.” —**ADAM HOCHSCHILD**, author of *King Leopold’s Ghost*

“This volume holds out true hope. Its message will resonate for all who look beyond Crusades to imagine, then construct a new world order without Muslim enemies.”
—**BRUCE B. LAWRENCE**, Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Humanities Professor and professor of Islamic studies, Department of Religion, Duke University

“A scholarly work of exceptional clarity, forthrightness, and position taking. This brilliant work pulls no punches as it provides answers to and refutes the clichés (conventional wisdom) of today—that there is a clash of civilizations and that militant Islam is on the march threatening Western civilization. The most comprehensive group of essays you will find that rebuts assertions made by establishment and neo-conservative scholars. This book provides answers and arguments many people have been waiting for and many have needed.”
—**AHMED RASHID**, journalist and author of *Taliban and Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia*

“This is a collection of first-rate essays that offers much-needed critiques of parochial, xenophobic, or merely simplistic Western approaches to Islam, Muslims, and the Muslim-majority world. . . . They expose the faults of the ‘clash of civilizations’ approach to the contemporary world and remind us how much it has become a self-fulfilling prophecy recently. This volume needs to be on the reading list of every thoughtful American before it is too late.”
—**WILLIAM A. GRAHAM**, Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and dean of the Faculty of Divinity, Harvard University

“*The New Crusades* is a book of major importance, revealing the extraordinary strength of Islamophobic prejudice in modern society worldwide. The authors demonstrate the depth of this dehumanizing problem with painful clarity and they challenge us to move beyond the sinister opposition of ‘us’ and ‘them.’”
—**CARL ERNST**, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EMRAN QURESHI is an independent scholar and freelance journalist. His articles and reviews have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Guardian Weekly*. He resides in Ottawa, where he is working on his next book, a study of Islam and human rights.

MICHAEL A. SELLS is Emily Judson Baugh and John Marshall Guest Professor of Comparative Religion at Haverford College. He is the author of more than sixty articles and seven books, including *Approaching the Qur’an: The Early Revelations* and *The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia*.

ISBN 0-231-12667-0



9 780231 126670

COVER DESIGN LISA HAMM

COVER IMAGE CORBIS

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS • NEW YORK

www.columbia.edu/cu/cup