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Do Muslim Women Need Saving?



Synopsis

Do Muslim Women Need Saving? is an indictment of a mindset that has justified all manner of foreign interference, including military invasion, in the name of rescuing women from Islam. It offers a detailed, moving portrait of the actual experiences of ordinary Muslim women, and of the contingencies with which they live.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Please allow me to preface my comments: I have read the book start to finish. I have also read the footnotes. Other comments on this book, are not well acquainted with the work and have little ability to shed light on the book or its merits. Indeed, references to Hitler without having read the book are laughable. Please see "Huffman's Hitler Hypothesis" or "Godwin's Law" to see how little credibility or usefulness such claims have on an intellectual argument. They do, however, help to make Abu-Lughood's arguments that there is a gendered orientalism at play in how we think about Muslim women and their 'bondage' in an imaginary place, "IslamLand." the author has done 20+ years of field work in Egypt and other places, and she speaks based on her rich and varied field research. She takes to task the "pulp non-fiction pornography" peddled by many mostly journalists speaking on behalf of 'other women' in the last 20 years. In assessing this genre she laments the focus on the individual and the ways in which that focus on one, 'horrible' story fills in for the whole of the Muslim Woman's experience authorizing the West and 'governance feminists' (page 79) to intervene via 'honor tote bags' and other feel good capitalist ventures. It might be useful for people to watch Chimamanda Adichie's TedTalk, "The Danger of a Single Story," The [...] to gain a sense of the

need for multifocal stories, community knowledge and longterm, rich ethnography that Abu-Lughood is working from and arguing for in her work. The book ultimately explores the political work done and allowed to be done on 'behalf' of women when we make claims on behalf of the universal at the expense of actual women's lives and experiences.

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