

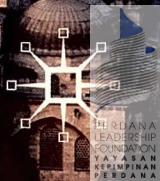
AMIN SAIKAL

# ISLAM AND THE WEST

CONFLICT OR COOPERATION?



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The relations between the 'West' – and in particular the United States – and the 'domain of Islam' have grown tense, especially since the tragic events of September 11, 2001. In this important new book Amin Saikal takes issue with those who see this as exemplifying a clash of civilizations, arguing that it is rather the consequence of particular contentious contemporary factors that have disrupted a historical pattern marked at least as much by cooperation as by conflict. The military might of the United States, he argues, will not be enough to win the 'war on terrorism'; it must be accompanied by sound political strategy to address those factors – from the effects of American globalism and the lack of democratization in the Arab world to the problem of Palestine – that have provided moral and political 'nourishment' to terrorism but defy military solutions.

*Pre-publication endorsements:*

'At once engagingly written and worthy of the most serious scholarly attention, Amin Saikal's book provides an illuminating portrayal of Islam as a world historical force and a devastating account of the American response to the September 11 attacks. He concludes with a series of policy guidelines that offer the world its best chance of overcoming the intertwined challenges of mega-terrorism, religious extremism, and Western hegemonic geopolitics. All in all, a stunning achievement!' –

**Professor Richard A. Falk, Princeton University**

'Dismissing as an oversimplification the "clash of civilizations" view that Islam and the West are engaged in an inevitable and irreversible conflict, this book - written by a distinguished Afghan-born, Western-educated scholar - analyzes the specific political, economic, and cultural roots of Islamist terrorism. Anyone who wishes to understand the contemporary world must heed Professor Saikal's argument.' –

**Professor Robert G. Gilpin Jr**

A sober and thoughtful examination of what emerges as the faultline in world affairs since the early 1990s. Those who pick up the book and those who take issue with the author's interpretations, analyses and conclusions, are likely to put it down the richer in informed reflection for having read it. –

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'Covering with equal assuredness the Middle East and Central, South, and Southeast Asia, Amin Saikal provides a masterful analysis of the complex relations of Muslim polities with the non-Muslim West. He is especially convincing in showing how the lone superpower at the end of the 20th century, the United States, has allowed itself to be drawn into, or has purposely pursued, policies that serve to undermine its professed democratic values and even-handedness in foreign relations.' –

**Professor R. D. McChesney, New York University and editor of Iranian Studies**

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