



Answering Jihad: A Better Way Forward

By Nabeel Qureshi

Author Info

Nabeel Qureshi is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, the only book ever to win Christian Book Awards for both “Best New Author” and “Best Nonfiction.” Nabeel is a speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. He holds degrees in medicine (Eastern Virginia Medical School), Christian apologetics (Biola University), and religion (Duke University). Nabeel is pursuing a doctorate in New Testament studies at Oxford University.

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Cover Description(s)

San Bernardino was the most lethal terror attack on American soil since 9/11, and it came on the heels of a coordinated assault on Paris. There is no question that innocents were slaughtered in the name of Allah and in the way of *jihad*, but do the terrorists’ actions actually reflect the religion of Islam? The answer to this question is more pressing than ever, as waves of Muslim refugees arrive in the West seeking shelter from the violent ideology of ISIS. Setting aside speculations and competing voices, what really is *jihad*? How are we to understand *jihad* in relation to our Muslim neighbors and friends? Why is there such a surge of Islamist terrorism in the world today, and how are we to respond? In *Answering Jihad*, bestselling author Nabeel Qureshi answers these questions from the perspective of a former Muslim who is deeply concerned for both his Muslim family and his American homeland.

Endorsements

Publisher - From *New York Times* bestselling author and former Muslim, Nabeel Qureshi comes this personal, challenging, and respectful answer to the many questions surrounding *jihad*, the rise of ISIS, and Islamic terrorism.

Comments

RZIM (by Nabeel Qureshi) - Perhaps the most exciting outcome of my op-ed in *USA Today* are the responses and open discussion of the Quran’s teachings in popular news sources, including *TIME Magazine*, the *Huffington Post*, and a *Patheos* blog. Such public dialogue and discussion is the key to moving forward and addressing the roots of *jihad*.

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Glossary

This book is rated as: 4-5

Rating on a scale of 1 to 5:

1. Not a good use of your time
2. Okay, but not that useful
3. Satisfactory, not great – but a good read

4. Loved reading it
5. Impactful, highly recommend

“Recommendation” Statement

In this book, Nabeel Qureshi examines Islamic traditions and scripture to shed light on 18 questions regarding Islam and *jihad*, and their role in terrorism. In doing this, he examines their history and various scholarly perspectives to avoid simplistic extremes while dealing with complex topics. Yet, the book is designed to be read by average readers and contains helpful appendices.

The goal of this short book is to raise public awareness of issues and concerns that must be addressed in answering *jihad*, rather than to offer a definitive answer to this vexing aspect of Islam. Nabeel openly wrestles with his own faith on issues such as self-defense versus retaliation and individual motives versus societal preservation. Some of his conclusions have been criticized but have helped to open up conversation nonetheless. In any case, Nabeel comes across as refreshingly authentic and open to other suggestions while admitting his own biases on the subject.

This work gives a concise history of Islam that helps readers to make sense of *jihad* and its various interpretations. It also explains who some of the leading voices are behind the current wave of terrorism and their motivations, and gives some insight into leading terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, and ISIS. Nabeel also explains the influence exerted on Muslims by Islamic religious leaders.

In the end, Nabeel sees two alternatives facing peace-loving Muslims as they come to terms with radical Islam. He suggests that they must either ignore or seek to reinvent the interpretation of their scriptures and centuries of tradition. In his view, this would leave Muslims either apathetic, possibly facing charges of apostasy, or open to radicalization.

Reviewer

Steve Krstulovich
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