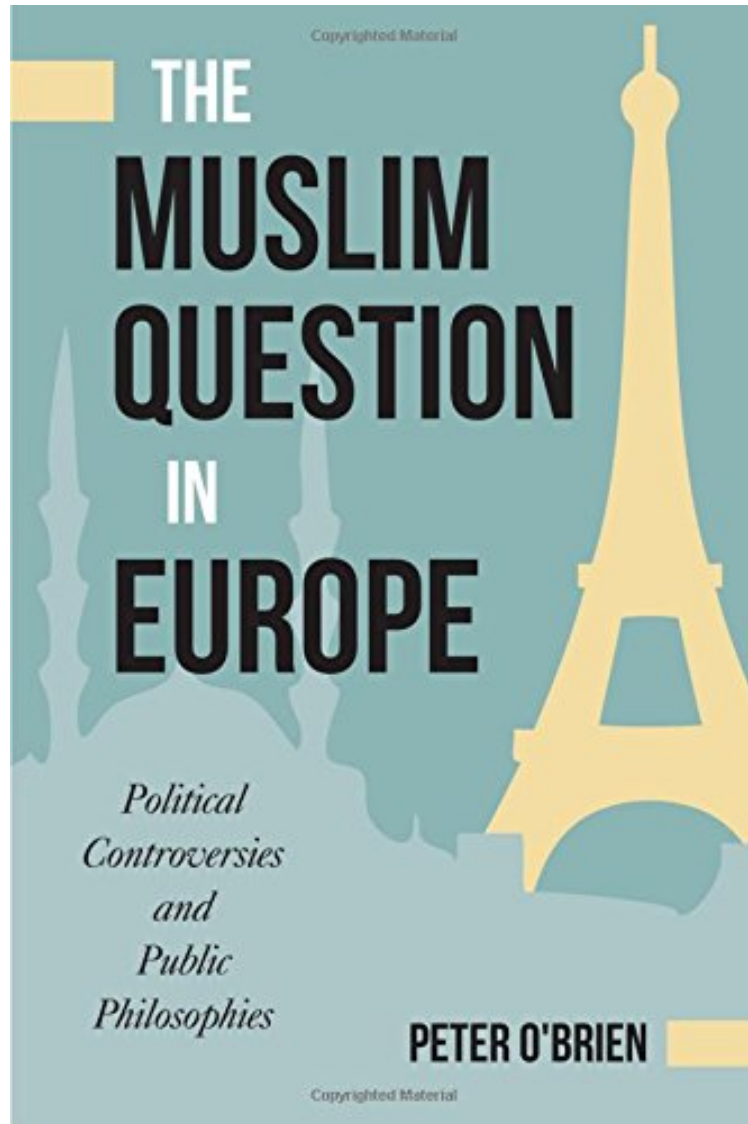


(Download) The Muslim Question in Europe: Political Controversies and Public Philosophies

The Muslim Question in Europe: Political Controversies and Public Philosophies

Peter O'Brien

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#918264 in Books 2016-02-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1439912777298 pages | File size: 31.Mb

Peter O'Brien : The Muslim Question in Europe: Political Controversies and Public Philosophies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Muslim Question in Europe: Political Controversies and Public Philosophies:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Europe Clashes with Itself?By Michael Griswold***I received an electronic galley of this book from the publisher through netgalley.com in exchange for an unbiased review. The

opinions expressed are my own. *The Muslim Question in Europe* by Peter O'Brien is not for those that cower away from an academic level discussion. I requested this book because I wrote my Masters thesis on how different types of electoral systems affect immigration policy. As an added bonus, it's a timely book given the recent attacks in Paris and Belgium linked to Islamic extremists within the two countries. *The Muslim Question* boils down to how do states deal with their ever increasing Muslim populations? While the question may seem straightforward, it isn't. O'Brien argues that liberalism, nationalism, and postmodernism, the three most common Western political philosophies have actually helped create a bloc of anti-Western Muslims within Europe. That is because these political philosophies are capable of spewing both the benefits of immigration and the negative aspects of immigration. If you are not confused enough, these same divides exist within the Muslim communities themselves as one side wants to work within the state, while another wants to destroy it. A thought provoking book on the Muslim Question in Europe.

An estimated twenty million Muslims now reside in Europe, mostly as a result of large-scale postwar immigration. In *The Muslim Question in Europe*, Peter O'Brien challenges the popular notion that the hostilities concerning immigration which continues to provoke debates about citizenship, headscarves, secularism, and terrorism are a clash between Islam and the West. Rather, he explains, the vehement controversies surrounding European Muslims are better understood as persistent, unresolved intra-European tensions. O'Brien contends that the best way to understand the politics of state accommodation of European Muslims is through the lens of three competing political ideologies: liberalism, nationalism, and postmodernism. These three broadly understood philosophical traditions represent the most influential normative forces in the politics of immigration in Europe today. He concludes that Muslim Europeans do not represent a monolithic anti-Western bloc within Europe. Although they vehemently disagree among themselves, it is along the same basic liberal, nationalist, and postmodern contours as non-Muslim Europeans.

Reflecting a stunningly broad range of erudition resulting from decades of research, *The Muslim Question in Europe* provides an antidote for those grappling to understand the myriad migration-related challenges faced by Europeans. O'Brien contends that the complexities are best explicated by viewing the issues through a *Kulturkampf* lens pitting liberal, nationalist, and post-modernist insights against or complementary to one another. Of special interest is the timely chapter on terrorism and security. Here, too, he discerns a pattern of normative *Kulturkampf* and policy messiness. He views this outcome as very European. Islam, after all, is of Europe too. Mark J. Miller, University of Delaware and co-author of *The Age of Migration*