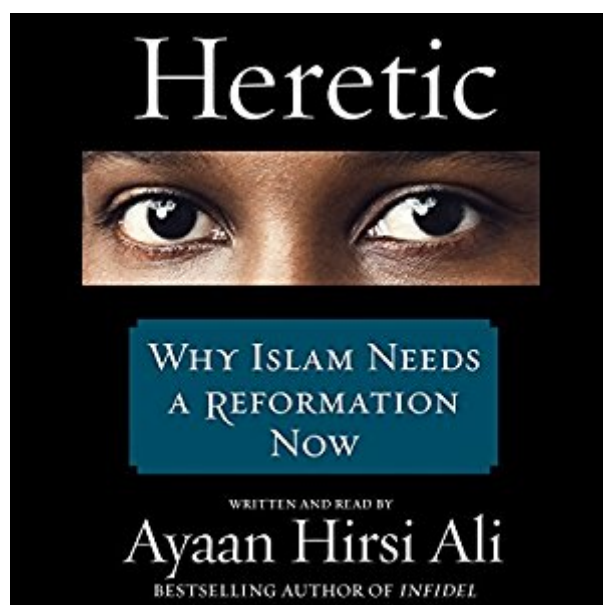


The book was found

# Heretic



## Synopsis

What happened to Islamic reform? Why have al Qaeda and Boko Haram become the faces of contemporary Islam? Why has the Arab Spring devolved into a battle over sharia law? Continuing her personal journey from a deeply religious Islamic upbringing to a post at Harvard and American citizenship, the New York Times best-selling author of *Infidel* and *Nomad* crafts a powerful call for an Islamic reformation as the only way to end the current wave of global violence and repression of women. Today, millions of Muslims are wrapped in a rigid orthodoxy whereby women are denied education, girls as young as nine can be forced into legal marriages, and men are told that their futures lie not in building better, more just societies but in jihad against the infidel. Hopes for a wave of liberalization after the Arab Spring have been replaced by new authoritarianism and efforts to impose sharia law. Twitter, YouTube, and other social media have become aggressive platforms to promote a harsh brand of Islamic fundamentalism, making the clash between secular and Islamic society one of the most important challenges of our time. And yet, contrary to conventional wisdom in the West, Ayaan Hirsi Ali believes that ordinary Muslims throughout the world want wholesale change. Courageously engaging fundamentalists on their own turf - religion itself - she boldly calls for a Muslim reformation, identifying five key amendments to Islamic doctrine that must be made in order to break from seventh-century traditions and fully engage with the 21st century. Interweaving her personal journey, historical parallels, and powerful examples from contemporary Islamic societies and cultures, *Heretic* will forever change the debate over Islam and its future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With each of Ms. Hirsi Ali's books it seems she's captured everything that needs to be said and that material for another book might be scarce, yet here is Heretic to disprove the assumption. Her views evolve the longer she lives in The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave and she becomes increasingly articulate in English the longer she speaks it. It helps that she teaches at Harvard where she engages in spirited dialog with the opposition. With Heretic Ms. Hirsi Ali produces a compelling portrait of that opposition, what it is, and what it isn't. In Heretic's formulation it is not Muslims who are the problem, as tempting as it might be to think so, since there is such a high correlation between Muslims and violence. The problem is that Islam comprises both a religion and a regimen for controlling civil society and a mandate for the forcible propagation of that regimen. Americans should care less about the religious features of Islam. Who cares if someone wants to unfurl a prayer mat and pray towards Mecca five times a day? Hirsi Ali doesn't and her readers shouldn't. The problem, rather, is the enforcement and expansion of those civil controls to which orthodox Muslims are committed. Hirsi Ali calls such Muslims, the ones who observe the literal features of their scripture, "Medina Muslims," after the era in Muhammad's life from which they sprung. Those civil controls, which might collectively be viewed as Islam's jurisprudential documentation are called sharia. They are culled from the three holy sources, the Quran, the hadith, and the Reliance. Sharia is often a little hard for Western observers to grasp since it is not analogous to the Ten Commandments, nor is it "religious law" as it is often translated.

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