

Understanding *Salafism* in the Modern World

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Meaning of Salafism (pg 1-3)

- Linguistic meaning: that ‘which has passed’ (*salafa*)
- Islamic context: early Muslims who were companions of Prophet Muhammad, those who followed them and the scholars of the first three generations of Muslims.
- Several definitions exist
- *Salafiyah*: *manhaj* of the Salaf
- *Salafi*: both a label and self-designated term
- Reclaim the golden age of Islam by following and closely imitating the Islamic practices and codes of conduct that existed during that time.
- Neo-Salafis

History of Salafism (pg 3-4)

- Difficult to place its origin
- Associated with the general attitude of Muslims who emphasize the importance of adhering to the first century Islamic religious and political authorities.
- Many traced the historical emergence of Salafism to the thoughts of Ibn Taimiyyah
- Salafism and Salafi ideas have existed long before the period of Ibn Taimiyyah

Modern Salafism (pg 4-5)

- A religious inclination or tendency towards a set of ideas and identity
- Advocate strict adherence to their understanding of Islamic practices as enjoined by Prophet Muhammad and subsequently practised by the early pious predecessors
- Post-Ibn Taimiyyah Salafism
- 2 distinct groups – modernists and those associated with Saudi Arabia/Wahhabism

Salafi – Wahhabi (pg 5-6)

- Study of modern Salafism will not be complete without looking into Wahhabism
- Terms used interchangeably
- Wahhabi - a label and not self-designated term
- Salafism is wider than Wahhabism
- As a rule, all Wahhabis are Salafis and not all Salafis are Wahhabis

Realities and Complexities **(pg 5-6)**

- Use of term is ambiguous and confusing
- Problematic definition
- An actual broader sense is claimed by all Muslims
- The pivotal question of who or what group qualifies as Salafi remains in dispute
- Many have failed to provide an accurate description and analysis of Salafism
- Writings on Salafism have been based on assumptions

Factions and Categories (8-11)

- Modern Salafism is not homogenous
- From moderate to extreme and from quietest to political activists to violent-oriented
- Scholars/observers have identified several schools of modern Salafis
- Groups and categories are by no means scientific
- Too complex for categorization
- Categories are only rough approximations of personalities and issues that divide modern Salafis

Characteristics (pg 12-14)

- Literalist and puritanical
- Legitimacy in all realms must be explicitly derived from early Islamic sources
- Religious texts are intended to regulate most aspects of Muslim life.
- Treatment of Quran and hadith as self-explanatory
- Selective in providing evidence as a proff of legitimacy

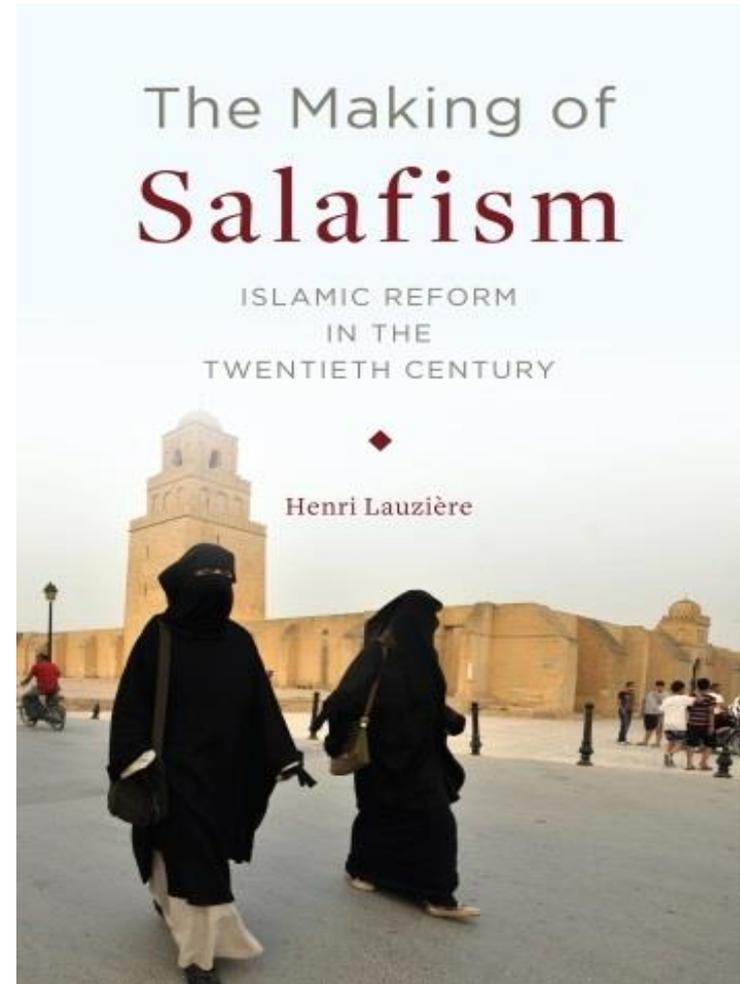
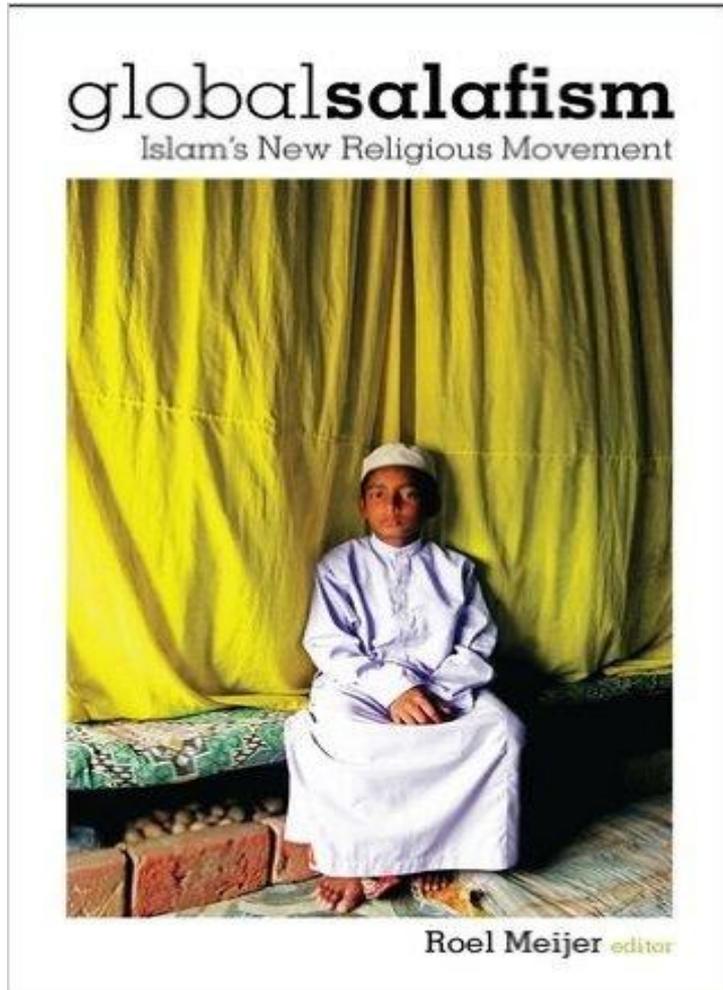
Ideology (pg 14-15)

- Built upon a clear and narrowly-defined religious text and methodology
- Revolves around many sets of binary dichotomies
- *Al-Wala' wal bara* as a central tenet
- *Aqidah* and *Manhaj*

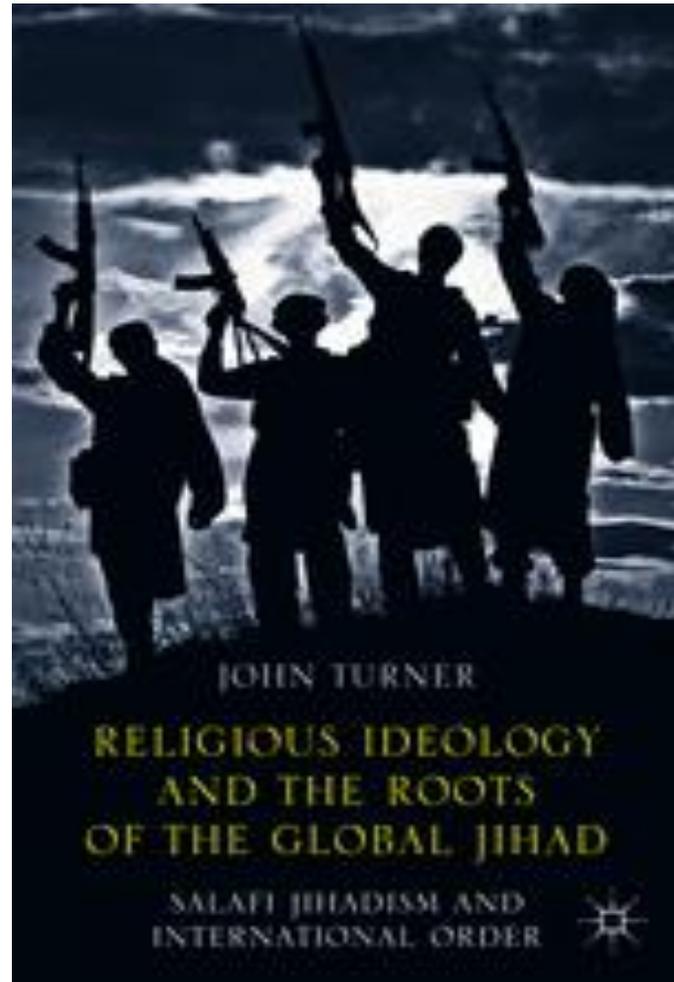
Components (15-18)

- *Aqidah*
- Approach to Islamic law
- Political activism

Recommended Readings



Recommended Readings



End of Presentation
Thank You