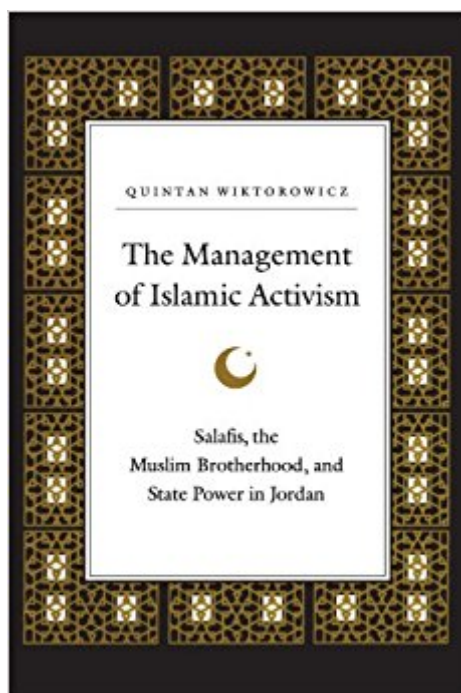


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The Management Of Islamic Activism: Salafis, The Muslim Brotherhood, And State Power In Jordan (Sunny Series In Middle Eastern Studies) (Sunny Series, Middle Eastern Studies)



Synopsis

Shows how the laws governing civil society are used to regulate Islamic activism in Jordan.

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Wiktorowicz demonstrates the complex nature of the democratization facade in Jordan. He illustrates the subtle methods by which the state continues to prevent real dissension and/or democratization, and furthermore demonstrates how different opposition groups react to these restraints and why. This is a pioneering work on civil society in Jordan and is the result of excellent field work. Janine A. Clark, University of Guelph By focusing on informal networks, Wiktorowicz strongly suggests that previous emphasis on the formal organizations of civil society in explaining political outcomes may have been misplaced, particularly so with authoritarian states. Glenn Robinson, Naval Postgraduate School

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Examines the relationship between the changing nature of state power and patterns of Islamic activism in Jordan. Using extensive fieldwork, the author demonstrates how regimes continue to constrain the organization of Islamic opposition even after the advent of political liberalization. In the case of the Jordanian regime, control has been maintained through the "management of collective action"--the regulation of opposition through a complex array of bureaucratic and legal mechanisms. More specifically, laws governing civil society organizations are manipulated to encourage the formation of moderate Islamic groups while disempowering more radical activists. As a result, the radical activists have formed informal social networks that operate outside the state's control. Composed of like-minded Islamists, these networks evade attempts to manage Islamic activism through a loose web of personal relationships, small group interactions, and informal meetings. A comparison of the Salafis and the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan demonstrates how state management strategies shape these patterns of social movement mobilization.

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