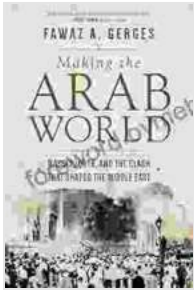


Nasser, Qutb, and the Clash That Shaped the Middle East



Making the Arab World: Nasser, Qutb, and the Clash That Shaped the Middle East by Fawaz A. Gerges

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1956 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Print length : 505 pages



In the tumultuous decades following World War II, two towering figures emerged in the Middle East: Gamal Abdel Nasser and Sayyid Qutb. Nasser, the charismatic Egyptian president, championed Arab nationalism and secularism. Qutb, the radical Islamist ideologue, advocated for a return to pure Islamic law. Their clash of ideas ignited a firestorm that continues to burn today.

Nasser: The Arab Nationalist

Gamal Abdel Nasser was born in 1918 in a small village in Upper Egypt. He joined the military and fought in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. In 1952, he led a group of young officers in a coup that overthrew the monarchy and

established a republic. Nasser quickly became the most popular leader in the Arab world.

Nasser was a charismatic and visionary leader. He believed that the Arabs could achieve greatness by uniting under a single banner of Arab nationalism. He also believed that Egypt should play a leading role in the Arab world.

Nasser's policies were popular with many Arabs. He nationalized the Suez Canal, which had been controlled by the British. He also provided financial and military support to Arab nationalist movements throughout the region.

Qutb: The Radical Islamist

Sayyid Qutb was born in 1906 in a small village in Upper Egypt. He studied literature and philosophy at Cairo University. In the 1940s, he became involved in the Muslim Brotherhood, a radical Islamist organization.

Qutb was a brilliant writer and orator. He argued that the West was morally bankrupt and that Islam offered the only true path to salvation. He also believed that Muslims had a duty to overthrow corrupt and oppressive regimes.

Qutb's ideas were influential among many young Muslims. He inspired a generation of activists who would later become leaders of Islamist movements throughout the world.

The Clash of Ideas

Nasser and Qutb first clashed in the 1950s. Nasser banned the Muslim Brotherhood and arrested Qutb. Qutb was imprisoned for 10 years. During

his time in prison, he wrote his magnum opus, "Milestones Along the Path," which became a seminal text for radical Islamists.

After his release from prison, Qutb continued to criticize Nasser. He accused Nasser of betraying the ideals of Arab nationalism and of appeasing the West. Nasser, in turn, accused Qutb of being a traitor and a terrorist.

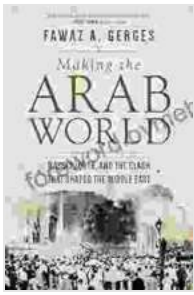
The clash between Nasser and Qutb came to a head in 1966. Qutb was arrested once again and was sentenced to death. He was executed on August 19, 1966.

The Legacy of Nasser and Qutb

The clash between Nasser and Qutb has had a profound impact on the Middle East. Nasser's ideas of Arab nationalism continue to inspire many Arabs today. Qutb's ideas of radical Islam have inspired a generation of terrorists and extremists.

The legacy of Nasser and Qutb is a complex and controversial one. They were both brilliant and charismatic leaders who had a profound impact on the course of history. Their clash of ideas continues to shape the Middle East today.

The story of Nasser and Qutb is a fascinating and tragic one. It is a story of two men who were driven by their beliefs and who ultimately died for their causes. Their clash of ideas has had a profound impact on the Middle East and continues to shape the region today.



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