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Christine has authored hundreds of blogs, articles and columns. Her writings have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Jewish Press*, the Gatestone International Policy Council, *Breaking Israel News*, the *Middle East Quarterly*, *FrontPage Magazine*, the Hudson Institute, and *Jihad Watch*, a project of the David Horowitz Freedom Center. As a former political and crime news reporter and radio newsroom editor, Christine has also worked as a regular national columnist and news analyst with *Metro News* (owned by the *Toronto Star*). She was also a Senior Advisor to the Hudson Institute in New York.

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My library contains a wall of books about modern Islam. But hardly a one of them covers the topic of this important study by Christine Douglass-Williams....Her careful analysis shows how the modernizing Islamic movement benefits from the freedoms found in the United States and Canada....She also helps establish this movement as a serious intellectual endeavor, putting contemporary modernizers on the map as never before, thereby boosting their cause. Given the global threat of Islamism, that is a constructive, indeed a great achievement.

—From the Foreword by **Daniel Pipes**

The Challenge of Modernizing Islam is extraordinary, refreshing, and much needed in numerous ways. The interviews that Ms. Douglass-Williams conducts are unique in their probing honesty, a welcome antidote to the sloppy thinking and cant that dominate the public discourse today....Her discussions of the controversial and manipulative concept of “Islamophobia” and its relationship to the problems of genuine Islamic reform, and to the role of Israel and how it can help distinguish genuine Islamic reformers from pretenders, are the crown and centerpiece of the book, and examples of the kind of searching analysis that is all too often absent from the public square today, and for that all the more needed.

—From the Foreword by **Robert Spencer**



THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNIZING ISLAM
REFORMERS SPEAK OUT AND THE OBSTACLES THEY FACE

DOUGLASS-WILLIAMS



The Challenge of MODERNIZING ISLAM

REFORMERS SPEAK OUT
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CHRISTINE DOUGLASS-WILLIAMS

With Forewords by Daniel Pipes and Robert Spencer

POLITICAL SCIENCE / International Relations / General
US \$25.99

THE ENTIRE FOREIGN POLICY and much of the domestic policy of the United States and other Western governments are based on the proposition that the vast majority of Muslims are moderate and peaceful, including those who are emigrating in large numbers to Europe and North America. But as Islamist groups and many mosques radicalize peaceful Muslims and appeal to the teachings of the Koran, Hadith, and Sunnah, it is imperative for moderates and reformists to articulate a vision of Islam and an exegesis of Islamic texts that can withstand the challenge of Islamists and the *ulema* who have declared the sanctity and immutability of the text. Instead, they must re-establish a firm foundation of Islam that is modernized, genuinely peaceful, tolerant, pluralistic, and compatible with secular governance, the freedom of speech, human rights, and equality.

The Challenge of Modernizing Islam is the first major effort to provide that foundation. Veteran journalist Christine Douglass-Williams interviews foremost moderate and reformist Muslims in the Western world. She asks them tough questions about how they deal with problematic Koran passages, how they intend to get their message across to the Muslim world, and more.

Their answers are revelatory, even in the ways in which they disagree with one another. Douglass-Williams has captured the Islamic Reformist movement in its full intellectual ferment, laying bare the tensions and triumphs of the Reformers. In the book's second half, she adds a crucial series of searingly honest and illuminating reflections on the challenges the reformers face, the chances they have of succeeding, and the implications of their struggle for the future of the Western world and of all free people.

Illuminating, engaging, and thought-provoking, *The Challenge of Modernizing Islam* is an essential text for understanding the future of the United States and the West, and the implications of Muslim moderates' struggle for the free world.