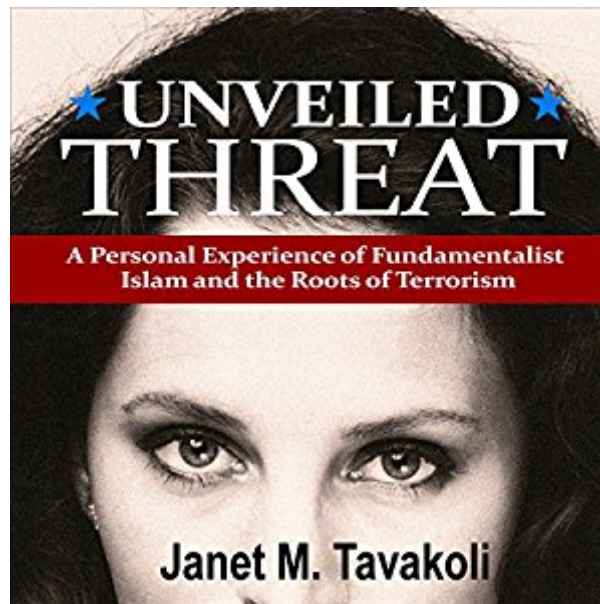


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Unveiled Threat: A Personal Experience Of Fundamentalist Islam And The Roots Of Terrorism



Synopsis

In this part heart-rending memoir, part expose of fundamentalist Islamic terrorism, finance expert Janet Tavakoli bears witness to the incompatibility of Western values and fundamentalist Islam. In 1978, Janet Tavakoli moved to Tehran with her Iranian husband and witnessed the overthrow of the progressive Shah and the birth of the fundamentalist Islamic Republic of Iran. After fleeing Iran, she followed the expansion of fundamentalist Islam and the spread of terrorism promoted by religious leaders at the highest echelons in the Middle East. In 1993, she worked in the World Trade Center complex when terrorists detonated a bomb in the parking garage of the North Tower. On 9/11, she watched the news from London as terrorist plane hijackers destroyed the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York on 9/11. She has followed multiple acts of terrorism by multiple fundamentalist Muslim terrorist organizations. Sharia law, embraced by fundamentalists, allows forced marriages of female children, oppresses women, suppresses dissent, destroys freedom of speech, and promotes intolerance of other religions. Tavakoli explains why the insistence of fundamentalist Muslims that sharia law is supreme over Western laws, including the United States Constitution, requires a response from those who believe in, and are willing to defend, the values of Western civilization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In refreshingly direct language, Janet Tavakoli discusses the incompatibility of fundamentalist Islam

with so much of what we take for granted: women's rights, gay rights, freedom-of-speech, and freedom-of-religious-conscience. While Tavakoli argues these points logically from first principles, this is also a very personal book about her experiences with Islamic fanaticism. Tavakoli not only directly experienced the Iranian Revolution of 1979, while living there with her then Iranian husband, but she later felt the blast effects of the Twin Towers bombing of 1993, while working in a nearby high-rise building in New York City. Tavakoli's book is a quick read, and she does not mince words. In today's politically correct environment, it is refreshing to actually read of terrorist acts being referred to as terrorist acts. It is also refreshing to be reminded of the West's early civilizational advances as when, in 417 A.D., St. Augustine defended the virtue of women who had been raped. Essentially, Tavakoli's book forces the issue that there really is a clash of civilizations and encourages us to recall that our ancestors often went through great hardship to come here, because they were the kind of people who would not submit. Taking this tradition to heart, Tavakoli does not accept as normal the cruelty of Seventh Century practices, some of which she describes as currently occurring in Islamic-run countries. Arguably, one can look even further back than our own Western traditions in understanding the goal of Tavakoli's brief book: "The beginning of wisdom is calling things by their right name."

Disclaimer: The author sent me a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review. I think I owe Janet M. Tavakoli an apology because when this book arrived and I took it out of the envelope, I had second thoughts. It's the cover combined with the size; you can just see an idiot politician waving the book while he or she stands on some stage. So, I am sorry. And you know that adage about not judging a book by its cover – it's true here. And not just because most idiot politicians (on either side of the aisle) would avoid Janet M. Tavakoli. Tavakoli's book is somewhat of a memoir in parts, but mostly a warning, an analysis, a cautionary flare of fundamentalist Islam. And let's be clear, for Tavakoli is, it is Fundamentalist Islam she is speaking about. Her solution is one America's earliest documents, so the book is geared towards Americans. The book starts with fall of the Shah of Iran. It is to Tavakoli's credit that she doesn't white wash either the Shah or the interference of America and Britain in Iran's politics. Tavakoli was in Iran at this time because she was married to Iranian, and she saw (and experienced) the changes that occurred when Khomeini came to power, in particular what those changes meant for women and freedom of speech. The television programming changed (thought Little House on the Prairie was fine) as well as acceptable clothing for playing tennis. Eventually, people are arrested and subjected to show trials. This people include some that Tavakoli herself knew. While Tavakoli does go into some more

detail about some trials later in the book, glossing over them in this section seemed a little strange, and a reader can't help thinking that at least one example wouldn't be amiss here.

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