

## Global Ministries—UCC & Disciples

### Middle East and Europe      Arab- and Muslim- Americans

#### Recommended Reading

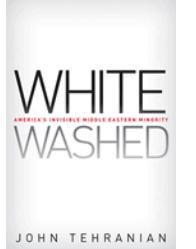
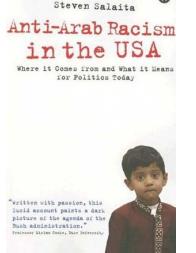
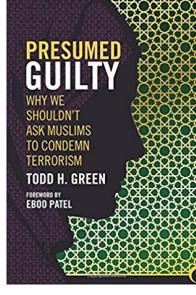
	<p><i>The Arab Americans</i>, by Randa A. Kayyali—This book is a very comprehensive and thorough introduction to the history and place of Arab Americans. It traces the waves of immigration, discusses the issue of classification, and highlights Arab culture and its impact on US society. In the book, Kayyali includes an introduction to Arab history and identity, including religious, particularly lifting up the role of Muslim and Christian Arab-Americans.</p>
	<p><i>How does it feel to be a problem? Being Young and Arab in America</i>, by Moustafa Bayoumi—in this book, Bayoumi tells the stories of several Arab-American youth and how they are treated post-9/11. Citing W.E.B. DuBois, he asks the question of race as it applies to Arab-Americans, both Muslim and Christian, in a very poignant analysis and personal recounting.</p>
	<p><i>This Muslim American Life</i>, by Moustafa Bayoumi—This collection of essays explores being Muslim in the US, focusing on the post-9/11 period, but not limited to it. Bayoumi is a clear writer, interjecting humor with serious historical, political, social, and cultural analysis. A main theme is the racialization of religion, particularly Islam, in the US. While not directly addressing issues of Arab Americans, this book makes clear the intersections, and complexities, of identities, both constructed and perceived.</p>
	<p><i>Conditional Citizens</i>, by Laila Lalami—in this collection of essays, Lalami discusses the precarious nature of citizenship in the US for Brown and Black people. While not specifically about Arab-Americans or Muslim-Americans, both categories are among those Lalami calls “conditional.” She explores White supremacy and its implications on the rights and protections all citizens should expect. Lalami’s writing is infused with her own experience as a Muslim Moroccan-American woman in a post-9/11 US.</p>
	<p><i>We are not here to be bystanders</i>, by Linda Sarsour—Sarsour is perhaps the most recognizable Arab- and Muslim-American activist today. In this book, with a powerful foreword by Harry Belafonte, she tells her story of growing up in Brooklyn, understanding her identity and embracing it, and her path to social activism in an intersectional way. Her book is a memoir with many touching stories; a testament to a commitment to engage for real change; and a call to join the movement for rights for all people.</p>
	<p><i>Muslims and the Making of America</i>, by Amir Hussain—in this short and breezy book, Hussain explores the history of Islam in the United States, going back to the years and decades before the US became an independent country. He shows that Muslims, including but not only Arab Muslims, have been in this land since the very beginning of immigration, in great part because of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which brought Muslims to North America. He then explores Muslims in cultural, social, commercial, sports, and architectural history of the United States. This is fast-paced and good introduction to Muslim history in the US.</p>



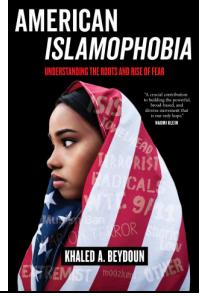
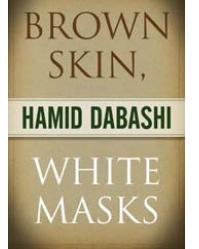
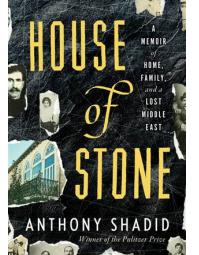
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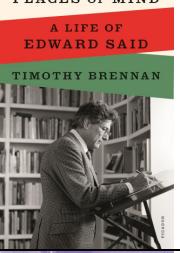
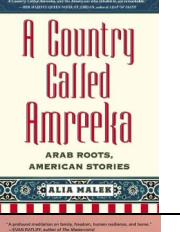
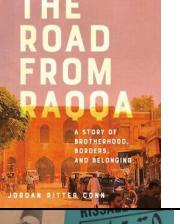
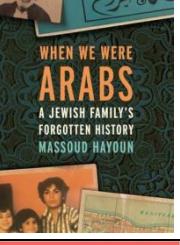
#### Recommended Reading

 <p><b>AMERICAN HATE</b> SURVIVORS SPEAK OUT EDITED BY ARJUN SINGH SETHI</p>	<p><i>American Hate</i>, by Arjun Singh Sethi—This is a compilation of stories related by people of the Muslim-American, Arab-American, and Southern Asian-American communities who have experienced incidents of hate, either verbal or physical, before and after the 2016 presidential election. This book goes beyond statistics and theory, and sheds light onto the actual impact of hatred in the US against people. It is a necessary book, as difficult as it is to read these testimonials.</p>
 <p><b>WHITE WASHED</b> AMERICA'S INVISIBLE MIDDLE EASTERN MINORITY JOHN TEHRANIAN</p>	<p><i>Whitewashed: America's Invisible Middle Eastern Minority</i>, by John Tehranian—This book is helpful in understanding issues of race and the question of Middle Eastern Americans, especially from a legal perspective. Tehranian, an Armenian from Iran, broadens the discussion beyond Arab-Americans (Iranians, Armenians, Turks, etc., in addition to the question of Muslims and Christians) in a useful way.</p>
 <p>Steven Salaita <b>Anti-Arab Racism in the USA</b> Where It Comes From and What It Means for Politics Today</p> <p>*written with passion, this book account depicts a day-to-day picture of the agenda of the US government and its policies toward the Palestinian-Arab Society, their identity, and their rights.</p>	<p><i>Anti-Arab Racism in the USA</i>, by Steven Salaita—Not only about Arab-Americans, but about negative stereotypes and attitudes toward Arabs in the US context, Salaita has compiled a collection of essays that are challenging and well-argued. He discusses impressions of the Arab world in the US, the place of the Middle East in US academia, the debate about Zionism and racism, religious (particularly evangelical Christian) attitudes toward Middle Easterners, and the meanings of the Abu Gharaib photographs and representations. Salaita's writing is tight and logical.</p>
 <p><b>PRESUMED GUILTY</b> WHY WE SHOULDN'T ASK MUSLIMS TO CONDEMN TERRORISM TODD H. GREEN FOREWORD BY EBOO PATEL</p>	<p><i>Presumed Guilty</i>, by Todd Green—Written by a Presbyterian minister and former State Department staff person, this book is a very clear statement on the false expectation that Muslims should have to condemn every act of terror or violence that takes place. Green explores the roots and history of terrorism, the record of Muslims who routinely speak out and act against acts of terror, how Islamophobia is manifest and functions, and Christian history of racism, torture, genocide, and nuclear warfare. He concludes with Krister Stendahl's rules of interfaith engagement: let each person define his/her own self-identity, including faith; compare like with like (don't compare one faith's positives with another's negatives); and employ self-envy (seek to improve one's understanding and practice of one's own faith by learning from another's).</p>

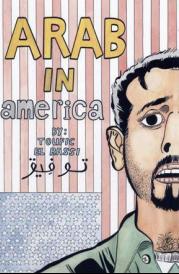
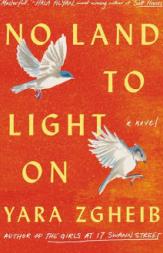
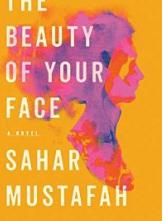


	<p><i>American Islamophobia</i>, by Khaled Beydoun—This book is written as a primer on the historical basis for contemporary Islamophobia, and Beydoun succeeds remarkably. The book is a helpful and clearly written reflection and research (legal, social, and political) that places current fear and bigotry toward Muslims in the US in the larger context of race relations and racism in this country. Interspersed with personal stories, the narrative goes back into the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, but brings the story up to current times.</p>
	<p><i>Islamophobia and Racism in America</i>, by Eric Love—A detailed and historical look at the intersection of racism with Muslim/Middle Eastern/Southern Asian identity in the US, this book is an important study historically, and contemporarily. Love proposes adding a new race identity to the accepted five in the US today, which include “white,” “African-American/black,” “Native American,” “Asian-American,” and “Latin@.” He makes the case that the current racial categories are insufficient, especially in the current context, but acknowledges that a new category is also less vague than it might. The historical and sociological analyses of this book are the most important aspects.</p>
	<p><i>Brown Skin, White Masks</i>, by Hamid Dabashi—Following in the cultural critique footsteps of Fanon and Said, Dabashi writes on comprador intellectuals, especially those from the Muslim world who have come to serve the US road to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, during the George W. Bush administration. Fiercely critical of US designs on the world, and Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land and control of people, Dabashi singles out those who have contributed to rationalizations of these efforts.</p>
	<p><i>Muslim Girl: A Coming of Age</i>, by Amani al-Khatahtbeh—In this extremely intelligent memoir of growing up Muslim and Arab-American in New Jersey and Jordan, al-Khatahtbeh offers a clear and strong assertion of identity, even as she comes to terms with her own identity; and a rejection of stereotypes, bigotry, and discrimination that became especially common after 9/11/01, her own coming of age years. The reader will appreciate the struggles and the strength required to overcome them of someone who is automatically judged by appearance. Al-Khatahtbeh also recounts how her website, MuslimGirl.net, developed into a popular site of critical review.</p>
	<p><i>House of Stone</i>, by Anthony Shadid—This Lebanese-American journalist writes of his year-long leave from the <i>Washington Post</i> in which he returned to his family home in Marjayoun, Southern Lebanon, to rebuild the house left by previous generations who emigrated to the US. Told with attention to the story of his family, the people in the Lebanese town, and the people with whom he reconstructs the house, Shadid conveys the experience of emigration and the poignancy of recovering history—of family and of a region.</p>



	<p><i>Places of Mind</i>, by Timothy Brennan—In this sweeping intellectual biography of Edward Said, Brennan combines chronicling and analyzing Said's literary, humane, and social critiques with a biography of the main touchstones in Said's life. It is a profound achievement, bringing in themes and offering clarity on Said's wide-ranging body of work. This book will be thrilling for anyone interested in a deep introduction to the life of this iconic Arab/Palestinian-American intellectual.</p>
	<p><i>Looking for Palestine</i>, by Najla Said—As a young girl growing up in the US, Ms. Said experienced the challenge of discovering identity. As a first generation Arab-American, she had to learn what it meant to internalize that identity and what it means in a US context. This memoir is profound and entertaining at the same time, as Najla discovers her own identity, and has to navigate being the daughter of prominent public intellectual Edward Said.</p>
	<p><i>A Country Called Amreeka</i>, by Alia Malek—A narrative history of Arab-Americans, as compiled by one. This book walks the reader through the various eras of Arab-American history in the US by focusing on the experience of an individual or family. The book weaves the stories in ways that are moving and informative, making this a very engaging and interesting read.</p>
	<p><i>The Road from Raqqa</i>, by Jordan Ritter Conn—The Syrian war has forced the displacement of millions of Syrians. Before the war, and even before 9/11, Riyad Alkasem had left Syria and come the US, settling here and establishing a family. His brother, Bashar, remained in Syria until the war made it no longer possible for him to stay there. Both from Raqqa, this book traces their journeys from their hometown through very divergent paths. This is excellent writing and a powerful story.</p>
	<p><i>When We Were Arabs</i>, by Massoud Hayoun—This reflection is on Jewish Arab identity and the several phases defined by historical events and migration, particularly focusing on the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Hayoun traces his own family history, focusing on his grandparents, and what it means to be Jewish and Arab, and ultimately, Jewish Arab in America. The book is well written, provokes excellent questions, and makes the case to reclaim Jewish Arabness. Hayoun makes a thoughtful contribution to this often over-politicized discussion of personal identity and self-identification.</p>
	<p><i>I Was Their American Dream</i>, by Malaka Gharib—What is it like for the child of Egyptian immigrants to navigate life as an Egyptian-American teen? This graphic memoir touches on many themes that would be familiar to those with hyphenated identities: trying to fit in while not quite on the inside. Wrestling with discovering her American identity—and her Egyptian one—Gharib paints a textured picture of this reality while coming of age between two cultures and places.</p>



	<p><i>Arab in America</i>, by Toufic El Rassi—In this graphic memoir, El Rassi offers a picture of what it is like to grow up in the US as an Arab-American. Including the experience of 9/11, this book offers both personal insight and Middle Eastern history (including American involvement). It is a very good introduction to both in an easily digestible format.</p>
	<p><i>Zeitoun</i>, by David Eggers—This quick read but gripping tale is the true story of an Arab-American and his experience in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Zeitoun is the family name of an immigrant to the US who settled with his Euro-American wife and family in New Orleans. A contractor, he remains in New Orleans during and after the storm, while his wife and daughters evacuate. His mission is to help as many as he can, and the book chronicles his day-to-day efforts...until he is arrested by the authorities.</p>
	<p><i>No Land to Light On</i>, by Yara Zgeib—Set in early 2017 in the days of President Trump’s ban on entry to the US for people from certain Muslim-majority countries, this novel tells the story of two Syrians immigrants who meet at Harvard. Their pathways to the US are vastly different, but they find love. The ban tears them apart, and that is the axis of the story. Well written and a brisk read, Zheib’s novel reveals the impact of an executive order, and imagines a world without borders.</p>
	<p><i>A Map of Home</i>, by Randa Jarrar—A complex, yet simple, story of growing up and of moving, of seeking home and finding it, then losing it. Jarrar’s novel is about identity and rootedness, relationships with parents and friends, and finding oneself in the midst of conflict.</p>
	<p><i>A Pure Heart</i>, by Rajia Hassib—In straightforward and clear prose, Hassib explores the lives of two sisters—one killed in Egypt, and the other living as an immigrant in the US. Crossing two places, exploring what it means to be in either, and investigating her sister’s death, and life, Rose learns a lot about her sister that she didn’t know, and about herself as well.</p>
	<p><i>The Beauty of Your Face</i>, by Sahar Mustafah—This compelling novel focuses on the life of a Palestinian-American family in Illinois, and the experiences of growing up Arab-American and Muslim-American. The current event is a school shooting, but the backstory of the family is the main part of the narrative. Each family member wrestles with the questions of identity—both national and religious—each in their own way.</p>