



Rachid Ghannouchi: A Democrat within Islamism (Religion and Global Politics)

By Azzam S. Tamimi

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Tamimi introduces the thought of Sheikh Rachid Ghannouchi, the renowned Islamist political activist who heads Tunisia's most important--albeit banned--Islamist political opposition to the current authoritarian regime of Zine Abidine Ben Ali. Ghannouchi is the leader of a school in modern Islamic political thought that advocates democracy and pluralism. While insisting on the compatibility of democracy with Islam, he believes that because of their secular foundations, contemporary forms of liberal democracy may not suit Muslim societies. Ghannouchi insists, however, that Islam is compatible with Western thought in matters concerning the system of government, human rights, and civil liberties.

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Review

"The face of nonviolent Islamic democracy has long been associated with the writings of the Tunisian political philosopher and activist Rachid Ghannouchi. Yet, not until the work of Azzam Tamimi has the Western world been exposed to the complexity of Ghannouchi's arguments intertwined as they are with a subtle appreciation of democracy's political imperative and Islam's moral authority. Through a careful use of original and secondary sources, Tamimi has provided the most detailed and fair-minded analysis of one of the Muslim world's most articulate albeit controversial interpreters of political Islam and its relationship to modern democracy." --John Entelis, Professor of Political Science, Fordham University

"This book is a serious contribution to the literature on liberal (and illiberal) trends in contemporary political Islam, and will be a useful reference." -- *Middle East Journal*

"This brilliant intellectual biography of a very influential Islamist thinker of our times cannot be ignored by anyone interested in the vexed question of the relationship between Islam and democracy." --*The Muslim World Book Review*

About the Author

Azzam S. Tamimi is at University of Westminster.

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