



# **Inside the Revolution: How the Followers of Jihad, Jefferson & Jesus Are Battling to Dominate the Middle East and Transform the World**

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2009 Retailer's Choice Award winner!"Inside the Revolution" takes you inside the winner-take-all battle for the hearts, minds, and souls of the people of the Middle East. It includes never-before-seen profiles of the Radicals, the Reformers and the Revivalists. It explains the implications of each movement and the importance of each leader not only through the lenses of politics and economics but through the third lens of Scripture as well. Today, wars and revolutions define the modern Middle East, and many believe the worst is yet to come. How real and serious is the threat of Radical Islam to American national security eight years after 9/11? Are there any Muslim leaders who oppose the violence of the Radicals—and is there any hope that such leaders will come to power in key countries in the Middle East? What is God doing in the Middle East—and is there any hope that Muslims will find faith in Jesus Christ? How can we as Christians help strengthen our brothers and sisters who love Jesus in the Muslim world, and how can we reach out to Muslims here at home?"

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Date : Published March 10th 2009 by Tyndale House Publishers (first published March 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9781414319315

Author : Joel C. Rosenberg

Format : Hardcover 513 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Politics, Religion, History, Christian

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# From Reader Review Inside the Revolution: How the Followers of Jihad, Jefferson & Jesus Are Battling to Dominate the Middle East and Transform the World for online ebook

## Lori says

If you liked "Epicenter", you'll probably like 'Inside the Revolution'. Rosenberg digs deeper, and explains in detail the historical and personal background of how the primary 'groups' have come to believe, in what they believe. 509 pages have never flown by faster. Grouped into three main groups, "Radicals", Reformers" and the 'Revivalists', Rosenberg has interviewed numerous people for their 'first hand' perspective in their own words.

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## Joshua Hedlund says

This is a very fair and informative book on the complex nature of modern Islam and its implications for the world's future. The book is divided into three sections covering "Radical" terrorists, moderate "Reformers," and "Revivalists" converting to Christianity. Joel Rosenberg has a conservative right-wing perspective that strengthens the book in some places while weakening it in others, but the book's greatest value is the vast content derived from direct, personal correspondence with people all over the world - Muslims, Christians, US government figures, Middle Eastern leaders, and more.

The "Radicals" section focuses on the history of Iran since the 1979 revolution and the ensuing effects on terrorist activity. There is a lot of really useful information here for anyone who wants to have a better understanding and context for current events involving Iran. That said, while I agree with Rosenberg that many dangerously underestimate the risks of Islamic terrorism, I think his bias may have overestimated the risk, which I think is borne out by the hindsight of the near decade since the book's publication (Iran was apparently *not* 1-2 years away from a nuclear bomb, and the radical Ahmadinejad is no longer in power. In general I think Rosenberg's missed expectations or interpretations may have been affected by placing too much emphasis on people's *spoken words*, including some admittedly concerning poll results, rather than people's *revealed preferences* through their *actions*, perhaps combined with potential nuances lost between languages and cultures.) Nevertheless, it's a solid section and I learned a lot.

The "Reformers" section addresses not merely "moderate" Muslims as a general group - which Rosenberg says don't get nearly enough attention or respect - but specifically focuses on Muslim government leaders across the Middle East and Africa, and their inspiring pro-active efforts to stamp out radical ideology and promote democratic freedoms in their countries. The king of Morocco is one such hero, but the star figure is Iraq's first president Talabani, an experienced Kurdish Muslim seeking to unite his country's divided groups against terrorism while building a relationship with Israel. This was the best information I've ever read on moderate Islam from any perspective, and it not only taught me a lot but made me very excited about the future political prospects for numerous Islamic countries. The author's political bias shows through here with his unequivocal defense of the Iraq war, and US military interventions more generally, but he made a very compelling case for the positive outcomes of such American partnerships with Middle Eastern moderates. I don't know if this information is so unfamiliar because the right doesn't like to praise moderate Muslims and the left doesn't like to praise Bush's military adventures, but this section significantly impacted my views on the subject.

The final "Revivalists" section covers the accelerating growth of Christianity in Muslim countries. It talks about the supernatural dreams and visions that are well-known to anyone remotely familiar with this subject, and the different strategies and emphases of converted Muslim evangelists across the Middle East. The book's earlier background about the effects of the Iranian Revolution helped me understand how the widespread disillusion among the largely nominal Muslim Iranian citizenry has created a wide-open door for the power of the Gospel, and, in contrast to some of the more fiery figures on the right, Rosenberg uses this section to highlight the crucial Christian themes of "loving your neighbor" and "loving your enemies." The section's primary weakness comes from trying to find too specific of connections to Biblical eschatology in current events, as the hindsight of a decade bears out. Overall, however, the section confirmed my existing optimism for the *spiritual* future of the Middle East.

With hundreds of pages packed full of information, this book is not a short read - but it's written at a very accessible level that will keep you coming back until you finish. If you're interested in a solid book from a Christian conservative perspective that will greatly improve your understanding of Islam in today's world, I highly recommend it.

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### **Laura says**

I love the research and thought Joel Rosenberg puts into his books. If you want to know the real-deal of what's going on in the middle east this is a book you should read.

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### **Ann says**

In this book, Joel Rosenberg (himself a Messianic Jew), is able to interpret the modern day conflicts in the Middle East (which he calls the "epicenter") in light of Biblical prophecy and make a compelling case that God is up to something HUGE in these "latter days". He is NOT some radical nut case ... he intellectually reviews the history of the region and its leaders, what they are saying they believe in, and he reviews what they are declaring their intentions to be. In the book, Rosenberg breaks down the groups of people into three categories : The Radicals (terrorist jihadist types), The Reformers (moderate Muslim leaders who desire peace in their region and hold to a form of Islam that is inclusive of other religions as well as open to democratic reforms), and The Revivalists (Muslim background believers in Jesus Christ as well as nominal Christians-turned "devoutly Christian" believers in the Middle East).

The first part of the book is devoted to making a clear case that Radical Muslim adherents are intentionally planning to annihilate and take over the West ... These people are openly stating their intentions for all the world to hear and they are doing everything they can to make it happen. Rosenberg documents this carefully. In the section on the Reformers, Rosenberg talks about the Reformers of the Middle east like the King of Morocco and the king of Jordan. Most compelling was his interview with leaders of Afghanistan and Iraq who are courageously attempting to lead their countries out of "war" mode and into a free democracy ... yes, a taylor made for the Middle East "democracy", but nevertheless, a country more open and free and representative of all faiths and peoples.

And the last part of his book, details the amazing revival taking place inside some of the most radical Islamic countries ... There is an explosion of conversions to Christianity taking place inside places like Sudan and Iran and Iraq and Afghanistan ... Rosenberg documents the amazing stories of Muslims who found the true God through encounters with the Living Christ in dreams and visions and miraculous healings ... These things are so real and point to the wonderful fact that no matter how the precarious political balance of power

turns out, God is still at work and will be found by those who truly are searching for lasting Peace. Rosenberg's book is so compelling and current. What makes it even more amazing is that God is using a JEW to reach out to Muslims in the Middle East with a message of Hope and Peace.

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### **Faye says**

This is a non-fiction book that seems huge but actually was easy to read. If you are at all interested in the Middle East and Islam/Christianity, I would really recommend reading this book. If you can't get through the whole thing, I would at least read the last third of the book which describes all of the amazing things that God is doing in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries. Really eye opening for me to read. Gave a broader perspective of current events overseas. Definitely worth the time investment to read (at least for me it was).

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### **Ray says**

Sometimes, there are books which start out slowly, but you know if you stay with it, you'll feel it was worthwhile. Then again, there are books like this which prove your initial hunch was correct. This book begins with quotes and discussions with recently retired U.S. Army General Jerry Boykin. I thought that name was familiar, and wondered if he was the same U.S. General who had been regularly appearing at evangelical revivals preaching that the US was in a holy war as a "Christian nation" battling "Satan". It is / was, so I initially wondered if the book would be "Born-again" Christian proslitizing by Rosenberg, or a thorough review of the forces at play in the Middle East. After being fooled during the early part of the book when Rosenberg does spend some time discussing the forces of Jihad in the Middle East, in short order the more prevalent message of the book becomes clear. I can save you some time and just tell you that rather than read the book, just log onto his Joshua Fund website and make your financial donation now. Rosenberg is the founder and President of The Joshua Fund, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that seeks to "Bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus, according to Genesis 12:1-3", and that's the message of the book. His transitioning to a Christian-evangelical message with its Biblical prophesy made me feel I was being preached to, or was taking a bible study class. If that's what you're interested in, then you'll enjoy the book. If you're more interested in explanations of the turmoil in the Middle east based more on political, economic or societal insights, then you might be interested in a more secular book.

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### **Karen says**

Oh my. I knew, just from the little bit I've been able to get through of Rosenberg's writings for the NY Times, that this was a...less than objective reporter. To be charitable. But I had no idea the level of crazy he had attained until reading this. I really, really tried to read this. Several times. Sadly, I couldn't make it past the first chapter.

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### **Jerome says**

Eh, this was OK. Although a Christian myself, it seems to me that most Christians are a little too comfortable

and conditioned to "good news" to take world affairs or Islam seriously. They just rely on the works of "other Christians" too much for fear of being "distracted" by "worldly opinions."

Of course, pursuit of "worldly knowledge" should never override a Christian's pursuit of God, but people take that to extremes because they don't like hearing about the brutal realities of this fallen world.

When it comes to terrorism or war, which most Christians (heck, most Americans) know nothing about anyway, Christians say that it is "simply" evidence that this world is controlled by Satan. True, but most Christians leave it at that and don't bother finding out more.

Christians think that informing themselves about the world will distract them, but they have no problem being distracted by the Super Bowl.

Because Christians already know the endgame of the world, they feel that staying informed is unnecessary. And tons of Christians travel to Israel every year wholly ignorant of the complex threats our Jewish brethren over there face. It's not like Americans have to live with daily Grad and Qassam rocket barrages.

Still, it was interesting how God works in the Middle East. Most Christians in America consider the Mid East a spiritual backwater infested with Muslims and terrorists (which most American Christians consider the same thing). It is outrageous how isolationist against Muslims the church has become. American Christians today seem to think that we are at war with them or something. No. God loves them, too. We have to remember that.

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### **Brenda says**

Very timely and interesting - a good perspective on what's happening right now in the middle east.

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### **Taranimu Qalb says**

Here are my comments and observations on this book.

1. It's politically and religiously motivated work. 40% Political and 60% religious.
2. It undoubtedly campaigns Christian mission. As a Muslim reader, I'm 100% unconvinced about its narrative on Christianity. My religion is the ultimate truth as what the author's think on his religion. There's no wrong with my religion. There's wrong with the interpretation of the Qur'an but not with my RELIGION. NEVER.
3. The book is clearly BIASED. HE divided his work in 3 parts; the RADICALS, the REFORMERS, the REVIVALISTS. He defined RADICALS as those who have extreme ideas like that of Osama bin Laden and his followera, Ayatullah Khomieni and his followers. He even categorized religious Muslims as radical ones. REFORMERS for him are those leaders that SECULAR and PRO-DEMOCRACY or PRO-WEST. Lastly, REVIVALIST are the ones reviving the mission of Christianity. What makes it BIASED is that it underrepresented Muslims as he only gave attention to the RADICALS and the REFORMERS (secular). He didn't give a room for mainstream or MODERATE MUSLIMS. It needs to be noted that are SECULAR are far different from MODERATE Muslims.
4. His work is lacking of sources. He didn't show evidence or authentic sources on some of his arguments. Some are mere self-observations.

5. This book is designed to breed ISLAMOPHOBIC sentiment.

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### **Cyndi says**

Great book. Great insight on what is happening around us during this current political nightmare. God will prevail! I know how it ends..... you can too, read your Bible!

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### **Robin says**

Very interesting, especially in light of the current events in Iran and their recent threat toward Israel and the US.

I bought this for my dad, who is Christian, with a curiosity about Muslims and what they really believe. He loved it and gave it back to me to read and has been passing it around to family and friends.

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### **Judith says**

Inside the Revolution: How the Followers of Jihad, Jefferson & Jesus Are Battling to Dominate the Middle East and Transform the World by Joel C. Rosenberg has the breathless tone of missionary fervor throughout, although the first two thirds of the book are largely historical. Rosenberg frequently quotes his many interviewees directly, lengthening his account of 30 years of terrorism. He stresses the danger inherent in Iran's nuclear ambitions, detailing Ahmadinejad's threats in terms of Islamic eschatology, but trumps it all in the end with Christian Apocalypticism. He appreciates the good will of the Sufis he has met, but still insists the only way to a personal relationship with God is through Jesus. Meanwhile, he reports millions of Muslims are converting to Christianity; these are, in his system, the "MBBs," Muslim Background Believers, and they are to be aided by his "Joshua Fund," to which our contributions are welcome.

Not my cup of tea, of course, but also not well-written.

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### **Carolngary22 says**

This was extremely interesting and informative. Joel has traveled all over the Middle East and interviewed the prominent and ordinary folks who are involved in decisions that effect us all. This is a must read for people who want to know what's really going on.

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### **Trevor Parker says**

This is a great crash course in Islam and Mid East politics. I knew virtually nothing about the area, other than reading the news. But guess what, there is so much the news doesn't cover about the area. I had no idea the

fight some of these political leaders had actually getting the U.S. to send troops into their countries. Iraq had petitioned for U.S. support since the early 90's. Afghanistan the same; it took 9/11 for our government to say, oh OK, now we'll listen to your pleas and send troops in to help you.

Also, there are thousands, if not millions, of Muslims becoming Christians. There are radio and TV programs about Christ by x-Muslims to current Muslims getting ratings that put our TV moguls to shame.

This was a very informative book. It educated me, helped me see miracles God is working, and increased my faith in the Lord. The only weakness was in the last chapters which became a little too Evangelical for me. But that is only a personal opinion, and not any shortcoming of the book or author. Hence the five star rating. This is a must read!

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