

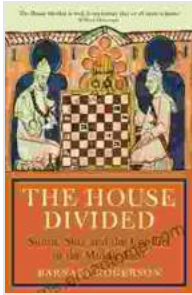
Sunni Shia and the Conflict in the Middle East: Unveiling the Roots of Sectarian Divide



Historical Origins and Theological Differences

The origins of the Sunni-Shia divide can be traced back to the death of Prophet Muhammad in 632 AD. After the Prophet's demise, a dispute arose over who would succeed him as leader of the Muslim community.

The House Divided: Sunni, Shia and the Conflict in the Middle East by Barnaby Rogerson



★★★★★ 5 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 8105 KB
Text-to-Speech: Enabled
Print length : 480 pages
Screen Reader: Supported



The majority of Muslims believed that Abu Bakr, the Prophet's father-in-law, should succeed him. These followers became known as Sunnis, meaning "followers of the Sunnah" (the Prophet's teachings).

However, a minority group believed that Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, was the rightful successor. These followers became known as Shiites, meaning "partisans of Ali".

Theological differences also emerged between the two groups over time. Sunnis believe that the caliph, the leader of the Muslim community, should be chosen by consensus of the Muslim scholars.

Shiites, on the other hand, believe that the caliph should be a descendant of Ali and that his authority is derived from divine appointment.

Political Power and Sectarian Tensions

The Sunni-Shia divide has had a profound impact on the political landscape of the Middle East. Throughout history, Sunni dynasties have held power in most parts of the region, while Shiite communities have often been marginalized.

This power imbalance has led to sectarian tensions and conflicts. Shiite Muslims have faced discrimination and persecution in many Sunni-dominated countries.

In recent times, the rise of sectarian violence in the Middle East has been exacerbated by political factors, such as the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the subsequent rise of the Islamic State group.

Cultural Identity and Identity Politics

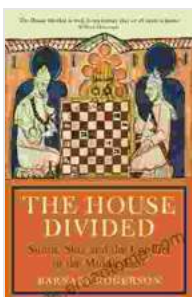
The Sunni-Shia divide is not just a religious or political issue. It has also become a part of cultural identity for many Muslims.

In some countries, such as Lebanon and Iraq, the Sunni-Shia divide has shaped political alliances and social divisions.

In recent years, sectarianism has been increasingly used by political actors to mobilize support and justify violence.

The Sunni-Shia conflict is a complex and multifaceted issue, which has shaped the history, politics, and culture of the Middle East for centuries.

Understanding the roots of the conflict is essential for finding ways to resolve it. Dialogue, mutual respect, and political reconciliation are all necessary for building a more peaceful and inclusive region.



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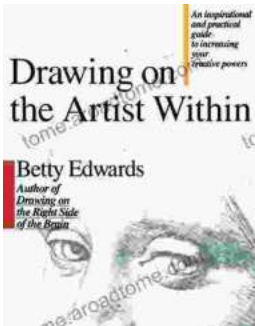
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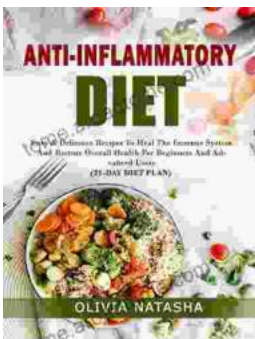
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