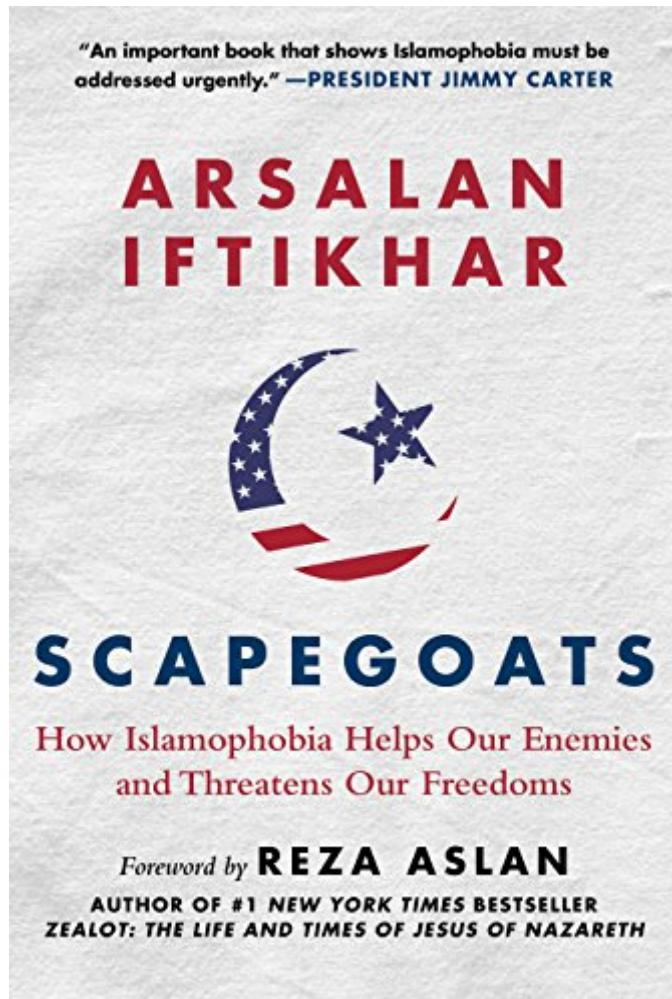


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# Scapegoats: How Islamophobia Helps Our Enemies And Threatens Our Freedoms



## **Synopsis**

When a murderous psychopath goes on a killing spree, law enforcement officials and the media never make his religion the central issue; unless he happens to be a Muslim. Then it sets off another frenzied wave of commentary about the inherent evils that lurk within the Muslim faith. From Fox News talking heads, who regularly smear Muslim leaders as secret terrorists, to Bill Maher, who has made Islam a routine target, it has become widely acceptable to libel a religion with a following of over 1.5 billion people; nearly one-quarter of the world's population. Now popular commentator Arsalan Iftikhar; better known as "The Muslim Guy"; offers a spirited defense of his faith that is certain to win him wide acclaim; and yes, another round of overheated scolding from the usual media quarters. Iftikhar's spirited defense of his faith is certain to hit a chord during the 2016 campaign season, as politicians and pundits vie to be the toughest on the block when it comes to escalating the hostilities in the Middle East, often demonizing Islam in the process. With his witty and levelheaded demeanor, the author will cut through all the sound and fury as a voice of sanity and reason.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Washington, DC author Arsalan Iftikhar presents his second book â “ his first ISLAMIC PACIFISM: Global Muslims in the Post Osama Era published in 2011. Now presents a most timely new book â “ SCAPEGOATS: How Islamophobia Helps Our Enemies and Threatens Our Freedoms. Arsalan is an international human rights lawyer who according to NPRs Michael Martin has â ^become a go-to voice in American media, playing a variety of rolesâ ”explaining Islam, decrying Islamic extremism and also what he sees as rising islamophobia.â ™ Arsalan is also the founder of TheMuslimGuy.com, senior editor of The Islamic Monthly, and has spoken on the major media outlets. In his Introduction he states, â ^As I was preparing to submit my first draft of this book to my publisher, I began to hear breaking news about the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, which ultimately claimed 130 innocent lives. For the next week, I spent all my time running between TV and radio studios here in Washington, D.C., doing interviews with Anderson Cooper on CNN, Chuck Todd and fellow panelist Tom Brokaw on NBCâ ™s Meet the Press, on ABC News Nightline and National Public Radio, as well as on overseas networks like Al-Jazeera English (twice in three days) and CCTV, the largest English-language television news network in China. That was just in one week alone. Then, just as I was finishing my revisions on the book, news broke about the December 2015 mass shooting in San Bernardino, California, where a husband and wife Muslim couple named Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik murdered fourteen people in cold blood during a holiday party for the San Bernardino County health department where the husband worked.

I purchased this book because I was interested in obtaining another viewpoint concerning one of the prominent issues of today. I had hoped to read something thought-provoking, but instead I was greatly disappointed. Hereâ ™s why: In the Foreword, Arsalan Iftikharâ ™s friend, Reza Aslan, states â œâ |more Americans will die because of â ^faulty furnitureâ ™ than at the hands of Islamic terrorists.â • No argument here, as 1% of 1% of 320 million Americans is 32,000 people, so while this statement is true, it is a misuse of facts to ridicule the concern that Americans have about Islamic terrorists. Unfortunately, this device is used throughout the book, and I found myself using the Internet to fact-check many of the statements as well as recorded television conversations. For instance, Mr. Iftikhar talks about a discussion between Bill Maher and Fareed Zakaria, stating that in the end, Maher â œâ |could only childishly snap that he found his guestâ ™s criticism â ^insulting.â ™ â • This presents an entirely different view of the conversation, especially when Zakariaâ ™s quotes are moved around by the author. In the middle of the conversation, Zakaria said â œYou’re not persuading people with what you’re doing. You’re getting applause lines in the

West.â • Maher responded, â œYou know what? That's insulting, that I'm doing this for applause linesâ • (this was the second time Zakaria had made the applause lines accusation). Zakaria returned to his point, â œWell, I'm telling you that the reality is you're not changing those people.â • (Zakaria had been stating that if change was what Maher wanted, â œâ |then what you have to do is push for reform, but also with some sense of respect for what the spiritual values that people thinkâ •). It is unfortunate that Mr.

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