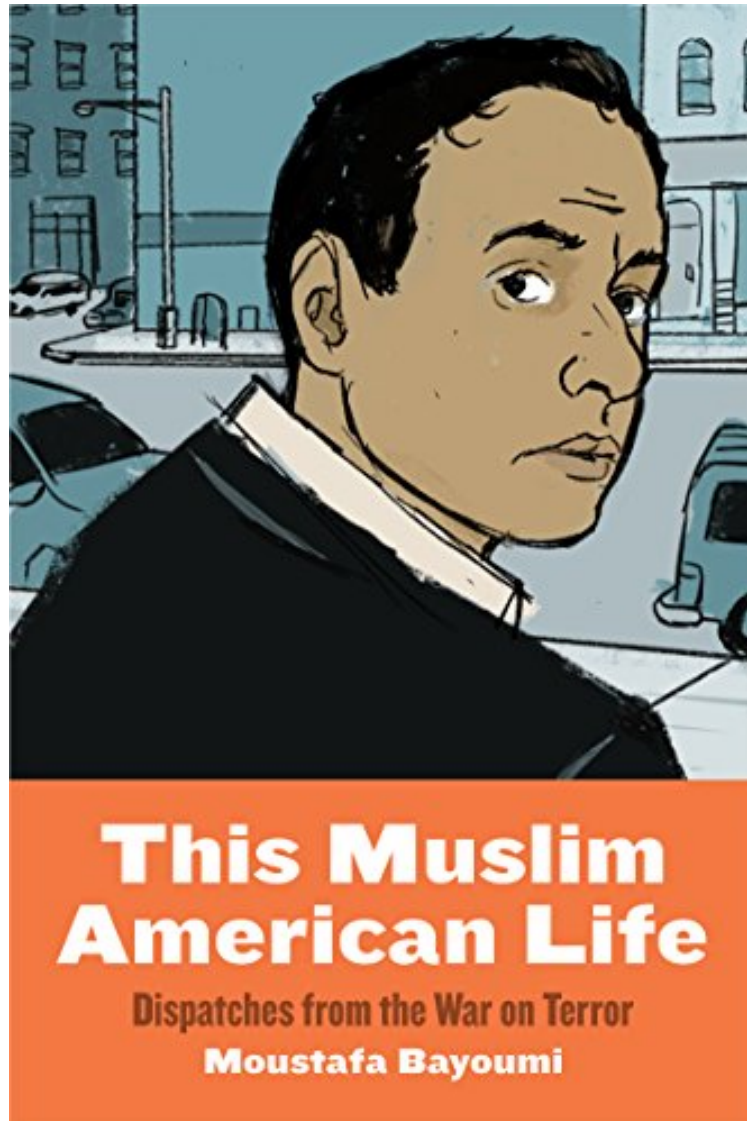


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## This Muslim American Life: Dispatches from the War on Terror

*Moustafa Bayoumi*

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#294793 in Books Moustafa Bayoumi 2015-09-18 2015-09-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1479835641304 pages This Muslim American Life Dispatches from the War on Terror | File size: 43.Mb

**Moustafa Bayoumi : This Muslim American Life: Dispatches from the War on Terror** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Muslim American Life: Dispatches from the War on Terror:

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Read By MyHumbleOpinion I decided to read this book because I read Moustafa Bayoumi's How it Feels to be a Problem, and really enjoyed it. In that book, I was

surprised to find out just how bad the treatment of Muslim Americans has been since 9/11. I was not surprised because I think America is perfect, I was surprised because I have good friendships with Muslim Americans and I was surprised they never told me anything about it! After reading this latest work *This Muslim American Life*, I understood more about why my friends are maybe in a strange position to tell me how they feel about how they are treated in this country. Muslims are subjected to what Bayoumi describes as a world where “the police aim to patrol the minds of Muslims for what they think and not for their actions” – in a sort of “Minority Report world.” Bayoumi successfully proves what it must feel like to share your thoughts with people when your thoughts are supposedly known by everyone based on the stereotypes created by the fear mongering of our government and reinforced by entertainment. I was most shocked to learn that the CIA actively participates with Hollywood to essentially be presented the way they want the agency to be seen. There are seemingly limited ways that Muslim Americans have to make sure they are being presented fairly, which is why Bayoumi’s book is so important. I will never be able to pretend some of my favorite shows, like *Homeland*, are harmless shows to watch. For some reason, even though I’m an educated person and feel I’m pretty sympathetic to the treatment of Muslims in American and committed to the eradication of racism and bias – even I could not see just how harmful this show can be to Muslims. Bayoumi explains that *Homeland* “ suggests that all Muslims in the United States are potential terrorists, terrorist sympathizers, or associates of terrorists...A casual viewer will watch the show and believe the equivalence between being Muslim and being a terrorist and that the only way to break this wicked connection would be to volunteer your talents to the Americans. There is no third way.” Maybe I’m naïve, but I watched this show and thought that the representations of Muslim terrorists were so outrageous and contrasted with some “good Muslims” so that meant it was fair and balanced. I have the luxury of watching it and just enjoying it and because I don’t view Muslims as terrorists, I felt it did nothing to change how I felt about them. Bayoumi asserts that because most Americans don’t actually KNOW a REAL Muslim, these stereotypes are particularly dangerous. I couldn’t agree more. In fact, the show is kind or ruined for me because Bayoumi so masterfully explains how each show that features Muslims follows the same old formula. There is no room for just a plain-old regular Muslim American. Someone like the people I actually know – teachers, writers, dentists, students, etc. I applaud the author for his attention to detail, bravery, and creativity in writing a book that could be the catalyst for change in this country. I think it is an essential read in college classes. And I must also mention that it is not just a serious, scholarly read – many of the essays are witty and fun. This balance makes him accessible and relatable.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
 By Marwa Moaz  
 Important for muslims and non muslims to read!  
 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fight the good fight  
 By doug korty  
 In the conclusion the author quotes the Palestinian filmmaker Hany Abu-Assad, " ...I care about civil rights, human rights, equal opportunity, justice...What you share with others is your values, rather than your identity...our values should still be about respecting each other's equality and civil rights." This is not a great book but it makes an important statement that we especially need now. Our country will go in one direction or the other, toward more or less human rights and these other things. We all need to work for justice and fight the good fight. I create and maintain educational websites, Midwest Independent Research. I have one on terrorism, [mwir-terrorism.blogspot.com](http://mwir-terrorism.blogspot.com).

Read Moustafa's Op-ed on Trump's Executive Order Against Muslims in *The Guardian*

“Moustafa Bayoumi is a true public intellectual. In the midst of the post-9/11 culture wars, he offers a sane voice and thoughtful commentary during this ideological firestorm. Compelling, insightful, and at times hilarious, *This Muslim American Life* paints a rich picture of the cultural politics of being Muslim in the U.S. today.”-Evelyn Alsultany, author of *Arabs and Muslims in the Media* “[Bayoumi's] essays provide an engaging and refreshingly insightful window on the world from the perspective of an English professor of Egyptian origin at Brooklyn College.”-*New York Times* “Chagrined about the treatment of Muslim Americans after 9/11 and still puzzling over even more strenuous anti-Muslim demonstrations since the election of President Barack Obama, Bayoumi probes the so-called ‘War on Terror culture,’ which ascribes a malevolent aspect to all things Muslim...A thoughtful study [and] certainly relevant.”-Kirkus s “Moustafa Bayoumi’s calm and precise voice takes you into the world of governmental paranoia and its social costs. What does it mean to be an American Muslim today? Read him. Beautiful writing for an ugly world.”-Vijay Prashad, editor of *Letters to Palestine: Writers Respond to War and Occupation* “Bayoumi’s book does much to contribute to Muslim studies.”-*ReOrient* “*This Muslim American Life* serves as an important extension of Bayoumi’s earlier work and secures his position as a major voice.”-*Journal of American Culture* “Muslim Americans form a unique group of recent immigrants in the United States because of the special scrutiny and treatment they have received. Moustafa Bayoumi gives them a voice in *This Muslim American Life*.”-*The Progressive* “Moustafa Bayoumi’s *This Muslim American Life*... combines first-hand experience with scholarly research to deliver a sobering account of the ‘War on Terror culture,’ and its repercussions on the lives of American Muslims.”-*Against the Current* “Moustafa Bayoumi is an essential guide to the contradictions and challenges facing the Muslim American community in the age of the so-called War on Terror. He allows us to experience the dislocation and maddening injustice of what it is like to be suddenly stereotyped and held responsible for the actions of distant others, yet never

loses a sense of hope and optimism.”-Juan Cole,author of *The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation Is Changing the Middle East*“This Muslim American Life, with its explanation of the War on Terror Culture, balances an impressive breadth of subject matter with an equally diverse range of writing styles.”-Al Jadid"[A] fascinating collection of pieces--sometimes hilarious, often unsettling, always probing and provocative--about, well, Muslim life in America, past and present."-Salon.com"Fascinating...the author's narrative places the predicament of Arabs and Muslims in today's America in a broader historical and sociocultural framework.This engrossing book challenges the entrenched...stereotypes about Arabs and Muslims."-Library Journal

About the Author Moustafa Bayoumi is the author of *How Does It Feel To Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America*, which won an American Book Award and the Arab American Book Award for Nonfiction. He is the editor of *Midnight on the Mavi Marmara* and co-editor of *The Edward Said Reader*. He is Professor of English at Brooklyn College, City University of New York (CUNY).