

Anti-Arab Racism in the USA: Where It Comes From and What It Means For Politics Today

By Steven Salaita

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Awarded a 2007 Myers Outstanding Book Award.

"A sobering analysis of anti-Arab racism, from neo-conservative to liberal, rooted in America's settler colonial past and seeping into every corner of our lives. Steven Salaita takes the reader into the crisis of Arab-American communities in the wake of 9/11. Written with passion, this lucid account of the dangers of American imperialism paints a dark picture of the agenda of the Bush administration not only in the Arab world but also for people of color at home." Miriam Cooke, Professor, Duke University

"An impassioned and deeply compelling look at the origins, evolution, manifestations and implications of anti-Arab racism today. ... A tour-de-force." Lisa Suhair Majaj, co-editor, *Etel Adnan: Critical Reflections on the Arab-American Writer and Artist* and *Intersections: Gender, Nation, and Community in Arab Women's Novels*

"Salaita dives head-first into the heart of racism in America and uses his personal experiences to help readers understand the mechanics of racism as it applies to Arabs, Muslims and people who look Middle Eastern in the post-Sept. 11 world." Ray Hanania, journalist and filmmaker, author of *I'm Glad I Look Like a Terrorist: Growing up Arab in America and Arabs of Chicagoland*

"A highly recommended read, not only for students of Middle East history, but for the average American who wants to know how we have become so intimately and yet so bitterly entwined with the people of the Middle East. ... Salaita has thoughtfully articulated a very regretful era of unabashed racism in American history."

Ramzy Baroud, editor, *Palestine Chronicle* and author of *Searching Jenin*


Today is a difficult time to be both Arab and American. Since 9/11 there has been a lot of criticism of America's involvement in the middle east. Yet there has been little analysis of how America treats citizens of Arab or middle eastern

origin within its own borders.

Steven Salaita explores the reality of Anti-Arab racism in America. He blends personal narrative, theory and polemics to show how this deep-rooted racism affects everything from legislation to cultural life, shining a light on the consequences of Anti-Arab racism both at home and abroad.

Uniquely, the book shows how ingrained racist attitudes can be found within the progressive movements on the political left, as well as the right. Salaita argues that, under the guise of patriotism, Anti-Arab racism fuels support for policies such as the Patriot Act.

Salaita breaks down the façade of Anti-Arab racism with an insightful analysis, arguing for the urgency of a commitment to openness and inclusion in today's political climate.

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Editorial Review

Review

Anti-Arab Racism in The USA: Where It Comes From and What It Means for Politics Today provides a social analysis of Arab-American relationships, racism issues, and how America treats Arab citizens within its own borders. Chapters blend personal case histories with theory to examine how racism affects all aspects of American law and culture, and draws some intriguing conclusion from Arab-American conflicts. -- Midwest Book Review A sobering analysis of anti-Arab racism, from neo-conservative to liberal, rooted in America's settler colonial past and seeping into every corner of our lives, especially in the universities. Steven Salaita takes the reader into the crisis of Arab-American communities in the wake of 9/11 and the emergence of what he calls the culture of imperative patriotism. Written with passion, this lucid account of the dangers of American imperialism paints a dark picture of the agenda of the Bush administration not only in the Arab world but also for people of color at home. -- Miriam Cooke, Professor, Duke University Terrifying Patriotism offers an impassioned and deeply compelling look at the origins, evolution, manifestations and implications of anti-Arab racism today. ... A tour-de-force which makes it impossible to avoid grappling with the seriousness of anti-Arab racism and its implications for our times. -- Lisa Suhair Majaj, co-editor, *Etel Adnan: Critical Reflections on the Arab-American Writer and Artist* and *Intersections: Gender, Nation, and Community in Arab Women's Novels* Steven Salaita dives head first into the heart of racism in America and uses his personal experiences to help readers understand the mechanics of racism as it applies to Arabs, Muslims and people who look Middle Eastern in the post-Sept. 11 world -- Ray Hanania, journalist and filmmaker, author of *I'm Glad I Look Like a Terrorist: Growing up Arab in America* and *Arabs of Chicagoland* Terrifying Patriotism is a highly recommended read, not only for students of Middle East history and affairs, but for the average American who simply longs to know how we have become so intimately and yet so bitterly entwined with the people of the Middle East. ... He articulates how institutions from the media to upper level government to the American people in general have been steeped in the noxious teachings of anti-Arab racism, and how those notions have readied us and dulled our sense of humanity in the face of grave injustices committed against Arabs and Muslims worldwide. Salaita has thoughtfully articulated a very regretful era of unabashed racism in American history -- Ramzy Baroud, editor, *Palestine Chronicle* and author of *Searching Jenin*

About the Author

Steven Salaita is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin -Whitewater. He writes frequently about Arab America and the Arab World.

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