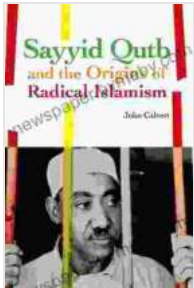


# Unveiling the Genesis of Radical Islamism: Sayyid Qutb and the Shaping of Extremism



## Sayyid Qutb and the Origins of Radical Islamism

by John Calvert

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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File size : 835 KB  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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## : The Enigma of Sayyid Qutb

In the annals of Islamic history, few figures loom as large and enigmatic as Sayyid Qutb. An Egyptian intellectual and scholar, Qutb became a pivotal figure in the development of radical Islamism, leaving an indelible mark on the trajectory of political Islam.



## **Early Life and Influences**

Sayyid Qutb was born in Mousha, Egypt, in 1906. Raised in a devout Muslim family, he developed a deep affinity for the Quran and Islamic teachings from a young age. After graduating with a degree in literature, Qutb embarked on a career as a teacher and writer.

During the 1950s, Qutb's political and religious views underwent a profound transformation. Influenced by the teachings of radical Islamist thinkers such as Hasan al-Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, Qutb became disillusioned with the secularism and Westernization policies of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

## Pillars of Qutb's Ideology

Qutb's ideology, which formed the foundation of radical Islamism, was based on several key pillars:

- **Tawhid:** The concept of the absolute unity of God and the rejection of all forms of idolatry.
- **Jahiliyyah:** The belief that pre-Islamic society was characterized by ignorance and immorality, a state that Muslims must strive to overcome.
- **Takfir:** The excommunication of those who deviate from true Islamic teachings, including Muslims who do not adhere to Qutb's interpretation.
- **Jihad:** The obligation for Muslims to wage a holy war against those who oppose or obstruct the establishment of an Islamic state.

## The Influence of Qutb's Writings

Qutb's ideas gained widespread influence through his prolific writings, including his seminal works "Milestones" and "In the Shade of the Quran." These books outlined his vision of an Islamic society based on the strict application of Sharia law and the rejection of Western values.

Qutb's writings resonated with many disillusioned Muslims who felt marginalized and oppressed by the prevailing political and social conditions. They offered a sense of purpose and belonging, advocating for the establishment of a just and righteous Islamic state.

## The Legacy of Sayyid Qutb

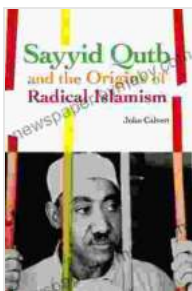
Sayyid Qutb's legacy remains a complex and controversial one. While some view him as a radical ideologue who inspired acts of terrorism, others see him as a visionary thinker who sought to revive Islamic values in a changing world.

Regardless of one's perspective, there is no doubt that Qutb's influence on the development of radical Islamism is profound. His ideas have shaped the ideologies of countless extremist groups, including Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

### **: Unraveling the Roots of Extremism**

The study of Sayyid Qutb and his ideology provides valuable insights into the genesis of radical Islamism. By understanding the complex factors that shaped his thought, we can better comprehend the motivations and driving forces behind extremist movements.

Only through a thorough understanding of the roots of extremism can we develop effective strategies to counter its corrosive influence and promote peace and tolerance in a world increasingly divided by religious and ideological conflicts.



## **Sayyid Qutb and the Origins of Radical Islamism**

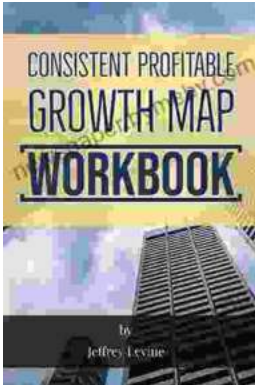
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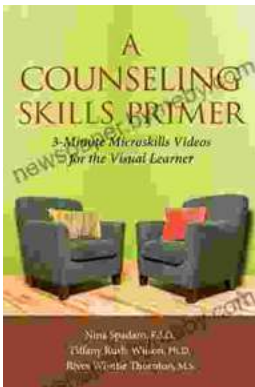
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