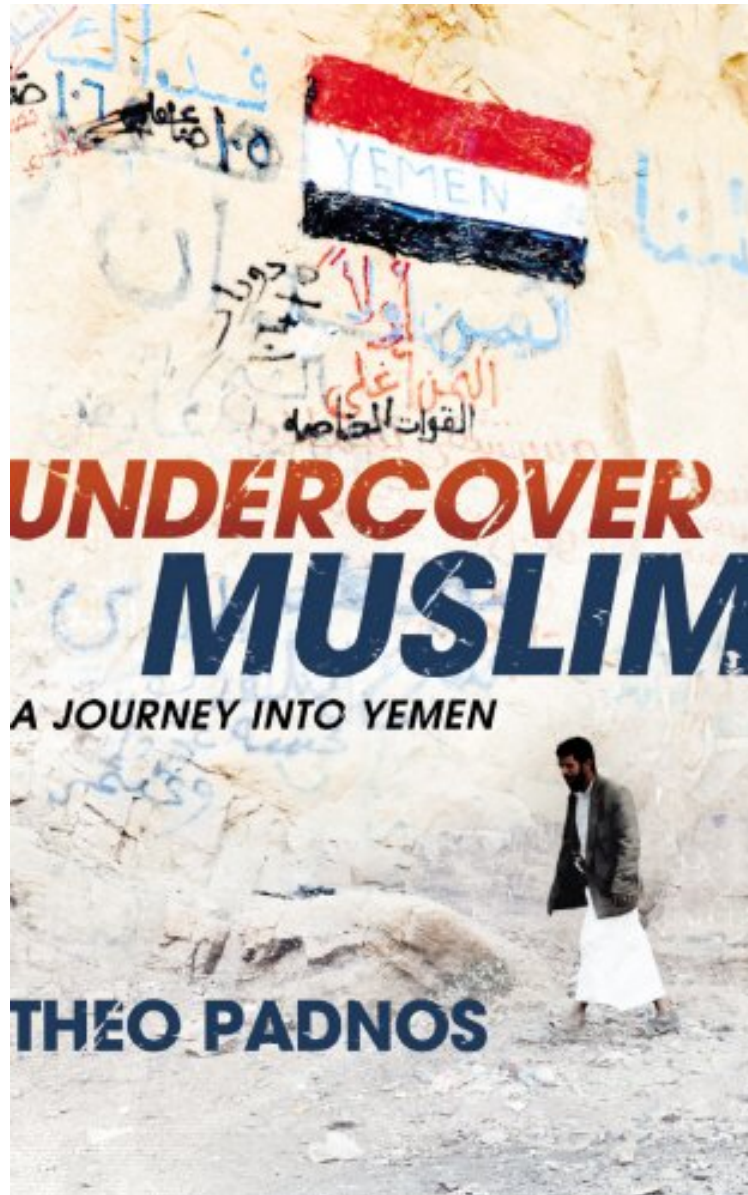


(Download ebook) Undercover Muslim: A Journey into Yemen

Undercover Muslim: A Journey into Yemen

Theo Padnos

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Theo Padnos : Undercover Muslim: A Journey into Yemen before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Undercover Muslim: A Journey into Yemen:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fair account of Islamic students of Knowledge!!! By Muslim VoyagerHi. I'm Robert Draper, author of Muslim Voyager, and I remember working and praying with Theo Padnos in

Masjed Sharqaan. He pretended to be a devout worshiper of Allah, and deceived many Muslim brothers. On many occasions he read Quran and Hadith with me, ate lunch at the local fish restaurant. Undercover Muslim is a great travel journal about his conversation to Islam, his encounters with French, American, Yemeni and other nationalities of Muslim believers. It is an enjoyable read. IF you're expecting it to be about terrorism, or a story exposing Al-Qaeda then don't get your hopes up. It's a fare take on Islamic students of knowledge who migrated from western societies to learn in Mahaad Medina, and in Dammaj.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A superb example of what great non-fiction can doBy Amy LombardiThis extraordinary work provides a down-to-Earth, witty and gripping account of life in a place very few of us in the United States will ever come close to experiencing. Indeed it would be completely impossible for a woman to make a similar journey and to gain similar access to the scenes and viewpoints presented in this text. A superb example of what great non-fiction can do. Please keep writing.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An experience few westerners have had, an analysis of a world we should know more about to understand an ideological gulf.By Georgia LloydI highly recommend this book for Americans to understand the underclasses in the Muslim world, Yemen in particular. It is also an example of the lengths that our journalists go to try to explain other cultures for us here at home. Theo Padnos had the cover story in the Sunday NY Times Magazine November 1, 2014, his account of having fallen into a trap and been kidnapped in Syria. The magazine article was so dispassionately written that I was moved to get his book about his time in Yemen around 2005 - 2006. It too is told very coolly and in the telling is very moving.

In December 2009 the US government launched an air strike against the tiny Yemeni village of al-Majalah where al-Qaeda militants were believed to be in hiding. A second attack a week later targeted the prominent religious leader Anwar Awlaki. He escaped unharmed but many villagers were killed. These two strikes were intended to set back al-Qaeda's operations in Yemen but, within 24 hours, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab - a 23-year-old Nigerian man and one of Awlaki's followers - boarded a plane to Detroit with explosives hidden in his clothing. His is not a unique story: at a time when true pluralism remains an aspiration rather than a reality in the West, young men, disillusioned and angry with the spiritually barren, consumerist societies in which they live, travel to Yemen in search of fulfilment. There, in the country's anarchic wilderness, they find what they could not at home: a pure way of life, submissive wives and like-minded brethren. Some, like Abdulmutallab, find something much more dangerous: the conviction to carry out Jihad. In Undercover Muslim, Theo Padnos brilliantly evokes a landscape and journey that few Westerners have experienced. He investigates the radicalisation of these disaffected young men as they move, almost unnoticed, from London, Berlin or Paris to their new spiritual home in Yemen. Padnos's journey takes him from the newsroom of a Yemeni newspaper to the prayer rows and lecture rooms of Yemen's madrassas, from covert Jeep rides into the sacred mountains to a stint in an overcrowded prison. It is through these events, and through the people he encounters, that Padnos shows us how a terrifying gulf has opened between Islam and the West.

"Eloquent and interesting" -- Victoria Clark * The Times * "His absorbing account of this Yemeni education offers a window on a closed world: one that importantly, notes the beauty to be found in Islam as much as the lunacy of some of its adherents" * Metro * "A clear-sighted and subversive book about a country in the news" * Literary * "This book succeeds, most notably in his depiction of the under-reported tragedy being played out in European and American cities where too few immigrants from this region have adapted well, and far too many children have failed to assimilate it all" * Sunday Times *About the AuthorTheo Padnos is the author of My Life Had Stood a Loaded Gun: Adolescents at the Apocalypse: A Teacher's Notes. He taught short stories and poems to teenaged prisoners in America before travelling to Yemen to study Islam in 2005. He has written for a number of publications including the London of Books.