

Lying by Omission: Tepid, Timid, Tragic

Customer Reviews

4.0 out of 5 stars

By [Roger M. Cooke](#) on May 12, 2016

Yes, I give this book four stars despite my title (more later) because I respect the authors' integrity, wish them well and warmly recommend this book to people interested in Islamist penetration in Europe. Their recommendations should be implemented yesterday. The Centre for Islamic Pluralism does not seem to be a stalking horse for Islamists and does not pander to the Muslim victim narrative. However, the question of dissimulation (lying by omission) cannot be avoided.

The message is that Islam contains traditions which reject sharia jurisprudence in favor of their "traditional" laws and mores. European governments should encourage this "pluralism" as it offers more space to "secular Muslims" (??) and Muslims of Western orientation. Al Sistani's [A Code of Practice For Muslims in the West](#) is offered as a "striking expression of the principle of acceptance of Western law by traditional Muslim immigrants" (loc 919). If you're wondering why asking Muslims to obey the law is "striking" read on. In any event, the vice squad might take issue with [temporary marriages](#): "The formula for solemnizing the temporary marriage is as follows: The woman says to the man: 'I give myself to you in marriage for the dowry of (x) for the time period (x).' The man immediately says, 'I accept the marriage.' " Differences in the Muslim populations of Britain (Pakistanis), Germany (Turks, Kurds, Alevis) and Spain (Berber, Sufi, Amazigh) are related to differences in assimilation. Many of these groups reject the Wahabi call for global jihad. There are many nuggets. We learn eg that Wahabi hospital personnel in Britain refuse to wash their hands with alcohol, using soap instead which doesn't disinfect.

The naïve reader comes away with the impression that this personal Islam is being hijacked by the Wahabi "cult" from Saudi Arabia. The reader can judge whether CIP is lying by omission only if (s)he knows what is left out.

As traditions substituting their own customary law for Sharia, CIP mentions Suleyman the Magnificent, and the 13th century Mongol invaders. Suleyman's traditions featured massive "child collection" ([devsirme](#)), or enslavement of young Christian boys from the Balkans and Anatolia, conversion to Islam and conscription into military service. The "Sword of Islam", Sufi Mongol Tamerlane, led a jihad that is credited with murdering 17 million people (5% of the world population) (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timur>). CIP cites 5 sources of "traditional Islam", including [Reliance of the Traveller: A Classic Manual of Islamic Sacred Law](#) festooned with references to the Qur'an and Hadiths, comments by different schools of Islamic jurisprudence, and 1991 certified English translation. It is said to represent the consensus of 95% of the Islamic religious scholars. I know it well, and so should everyone. Bear with me, the message is the volume (the letters N, A, O etc refer to commentators).

Jihad "As for subsequent times, [after Mohammad's death] there are two possible states in respect to non-Muslims The first is when they are in their own countries, in which case jihad is a communal obligation ... The second is when non-Muslims invade a Muslim country or near to one, in which case jihad is personally obligatory upon the inhabitants of that country who must repel the non-Muslims with whatever they can" (p. 600) "The caliph makes war upon Jews, Christian and Zoroastrians (N: provided he has first invited them to enter Islam in faith and practice, and if they will not, then invited them to enter the social order of Islam by paying the non-Muslim poll tax" (p, 602-3).... "The caliph

fights all other peoples until they become Muslim (O; because they are not a people with a Book, nor honored as such, and are not permitted to settle with paying the poll tax (jizya)) (N: though according to the Hanafi school, peoples of all other religions, even idol worshippers, are permitted to live under the protection of the Islamic state, if they either become Muslims or agree to pay the poll tax, the sole exceptions to which are apostates from Islam and idol worshippers, who are Arabs, neither of whom has any choice but becoming Muslim” (p. 603)

Jesus *“After his final coming, nothing but Islam will be accepted from them, for taking the poll tax is only effective until Jesus' decent The coming of Jesus does not entail a separate divinely revealed law, for he will rule by the law of Muhammad “ (p. 602)..*

Apostasy *"Leaving Islam is the ugliest form of unbelief (kufr) and the worst....When a person who has reached puberty and is sane voluntarily apostatizes from Islam, he deserves to be killed"*

"Acts that entail leaving Islam:

(7) to deny any verse of the Koran or anything which by scholarly consensus belongs to it, or to add a verse that does not belong to it"

(17) "to believe that things in themselves or by their own nature have any causal influence independent of the will of Allah

(18) to deny the existence of angels or jinn, or the heavens

(19) to be sarcastic about any ruling of the Sacred Law

(20) to deny that Allah intended the Prophet's message...to be the religion followed by the entire world.. (p.595)

Forced marriages *"Whenever the bride is a virgin, the father or father's father may marry her to someone without her permission, though it is recommended to ask her permission if she has reached puberty. A virgin's silence is considered as permission" (p 522), ... " A guardian may not marry his prepubescent daughter to someone for less than the amount typically received as marriage payment by similar brides, nor marry his prepubescent son to a female who is given more than the amount typically received. (p.533).*

Genital mutilation *“Circumcision is obligatory (O: for both men and women. For men it consists of removing the prepuce from the penis, and for women, removing the prepuce(Ar.bazr) of the clitoris (n: but not the clitoris itself, as some mistakenly assert).(A: Hanbalis hold that circumcision of women is not obligatory but sunna, while Hanafis consider it is a mere courtesy to the husband).” (p.59)*

Slavery *[the passages on slavery were not translated into English, the following are taken from “Rules of Warfare”]“When a child or a woman is taken captive, they become slaves by the fact of capture, and the woman's previous marriage is immediately annulled.” ... “When an adult male is taken captive, the caliph considers the interests (O; of Islam and the Muslims) and decides between the prisoner’s death, slavery, release without paying anything, or ransoming himself in exchange for money, or for Muslim captives held by the enemy. If the prisoner becomes a Muslim (O before the caliph chooses any of the four alternatives) then he may not be killed, and one of the other three alternatives is chosen”(p.604)*

Unlawful knowledge, music, pictures *“Unlawful knowledge includes (2) Philosophy...(5) the sciences of the materialists. (p.14) ... 'Allah mighty and majestic sent me as a guidance and mercy to believers and commanded me to do away with musical instruments, flutes, strings, crucifixes and the affair of the pre-Islamic period of ignorance' ... All of this is explicit and compelling textual evidence that musical instruments of all types are unlawful" (p.775). [p44.1 (1) "Every maker of pictures will go to the fire, where a being will be set upon him for each picture he made, to torment him in hell"(p.683)*

The litany could go on and on. CIP, is this “Traditional Islam”? If not, please show us the fatwas forbidding all these things. Please explain which of the “plural Islams” is compatible with the 1948 [UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)? (“No one shall be held in slavery... Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses... Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief...”). Which Islams have repudiated the 1990 [Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam](#) (“it is prohibited to take away life except for a Shari'ah prescribed reason... Men and women have the right to marriage, and no restrictions stemming from race, color or nationality [not religion??] shall prevent them from enjoying this right... Everyone shall have the right to express his opinion freely in such manner as would not be contrary to the principles of the Shari'ah... All the rights and freedoms stipulated in this Declaration are subject to the Islamic Shari'ah”). What purpose could CIP serve by giving a grossly distorted picture of Islam? “Tepid, Timid” is the charitable interpretation...the authors just want to perform their rituals in peace. We move on to the Tragic.

The word “Qur'an” occurs in this book 28 times, but the Qur'an is NEVER cited or referenced by verse. Compare this to Jihadi texts like the glossy magazine [Inspire](#), which is laced with citations. Jihadis apparently think the non-abrogated Qur'an verses work for them. Killing apostates and genital mutilation are from the Hadiths, not the Qur'an, but slavery (8:69, 24:33,23:1, 4:1, 4:25, 33:51), hatred of unbelievers (60:2, 3:24, 4:141, 3:117, 60:1, 9:19, 5:49, 5:57, 3:85, 3:19, 4.88-89) wife beating (4:34) and genocide (a short list of verses: 2:190-3, 2:217, 2:214, 8:40, 9:4, 9:73, 9:122, 47:3, 66:9) certainly are (I use the definition of genocide in the [1948 UN convention on the prevention and prosecution of the crime of genocide](#)). Islamic apologists are fond of saying that one can't just grab sentences from the Qur'an without interpretive context. Guess what, the Qur'an has already been interpreted, for 1400 years. Did the all jurists quoted in the Reliance get it all wrong? for 1400 years? The prophet married Aisha when she was 6 and consummated the marriage when she was 9. How can a Muslim repudiate forced marriage without repudiating the verse “You [Muhammad] may have whomever you desire; there is no blame”? (33:51). The “scholarly consensus” regarding slave girls was rendered by Muslim scholars at Al Azhar who in 1994 found linguist Nasr Abu Zayd guilty of apostasy inter alia for his “denunciation... of the permissibility of the ownership of slave girls, a principle considered religiously proven without doubt” (p. 16 of the judicial opinion, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasr_Abu_Zayd.) CIP cannot repudiate the Reliance without committing apostasy. Instead they dissimulate, saying only that Muslims shouldn't practice slavery, forced marriage, genocide etc when living in a non-Muslim country.

Mr. Al-Alawi, Mr. Schwartz, what in your view legitimizes authority? Divine Revelation? the Will of the Strongest? Natural Right? Social Contract, Custom/Tradition? As Muslim you can't appeal to Divine Revelation without citing the Qur'an. Worshipping a god who condones slavery takes Natural Right and Social Contract off the table. Are the depredations of a Suleyman or a Tamerlane legitimate because they are the strongest? If they think about this at all, they must think that Tradition legitimates authority. Therein lies the tragedy. Muslim immigrant children are losing their traditions. They are asking why are Islamic countries backward, brutal and weak? Why is everyone fleeing to Europe, while Europeans aren't flocking to the Middle East? Why are Muslims slaughtering each other? Looking for answers in the Koran, the Hadiths, the Reliance etc, they read passages like those referenced above and turn to their elders saying: ‘you call yourself a Muslim, but you're not doing what god commands.’ “*Fight against them until idolatry is no more and Allah's religion reigns supreme....Idolatry is worse than Carnage*” (2:191-3). ‘Islam is weak and disrespected because you follow the laws of men and not the laws of god’. The Centre for Islamic Pluralism has no answer, now Islam is collecting their children.