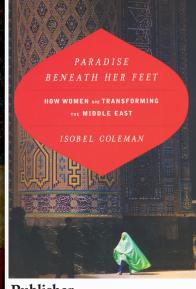


FOREIGN POLICY POLICY

OVERVIEW

Coleman reaches across the Middle East and into Asia in her wide-ranging discussion of feminism and Islam. She profiles women in fields ranging from education to politics who live across the Muslim world and individually exhibit great courage in their struggle to create greater opportunities for girls. The foundation of many of their arguments is Islam itself, and the ways in which they refute sexist interpretations of the Koran and Islamic law will be eyeopening to Western readers who have sadly grown jaded on the topic of feminism. The rapid-fire manner in which Coleman travels from one hot spot to another, tracking political struggles both large and small, makes it clear that while the Western world grapples with how to meet the cacophony of voices from the East, so also the women of Iran, Afghanistan, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia are finding a new and assertive way to communicate. Deeply religious, profoundly determined, and modern in every way, these are twenty-first-century women bent on change.



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Isobel Coleman is senior fellow for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations and director of CFR's Civil Society, Markets and Democracy Initiative. She is also director of CFR's Women and Foreign Policy program. Her areas of expertise include democratization and economic development in the Middle East, educational reform, and regional gender issues.