

Baker, Raymond William: Islam Without Fear: Egypt and the New Islamists. Harvard University Press: Cambridge 2003. 320 pp.

In a sympathetic study that verges on hagiography, Baker presents a school of liberal Islamist thinkers: two clerics, two lawyers, a judge and historian, and a journalist. Islam, these thinkers maintain, can embrace representative government, accept equal rights for women and non-Muslims, and call for justice and development in this world—all while eschewing the violence of radical Islamists and oppressive governments. There is an Islam of moderation: *wasatiyya*, the middle way, as embodied by the new Wasat Party that emerged in the mid-1990s. Still, in foreign policy, these 'new Islamists' support a defensive jihad against U.S. actions in Afghanistan and Iraq and take a strong line on the rights of Palestinians."

Rezension in „Foreign Affairs“ March/April 2004, p. 172.