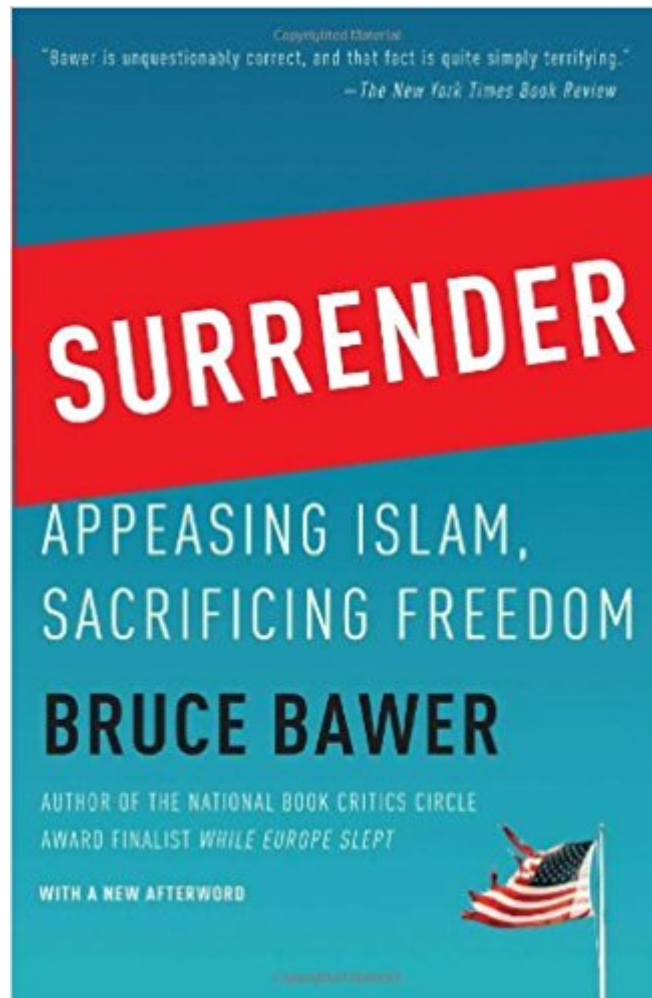




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Surrender: Appeasing Islam, Sacrificing Freedom



Synopsis

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD In his controversial and critically acclaimed *While Europe Slept*, Bruce Bawer outlined the danger that Islamic immigration posed to traditional European values. In this provocative follow-up, he takes up the West's recent trend of silence and appeasement in the face of cultural intimidation by radical Islam. From an examination of coverage of the shocking murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh to the widespread denunciation of the Danish editors who published editorial cartoons mocking Mohammed, Bawer shows how radical Islam has cowed Western media, politicians, intellectuals, and religious leaders into believing that we must give up the right of free expression to peacefully coexist with the Muslim world. Fearless and excoriating, *Surrender* is an unapologetic and uncompromising defense of free speech that will stir conservatives and liberals alike.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Anchor; 1 edition (May 4, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0767928377

ISBN-13: 978-0767928373

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #523,498 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #185 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Punk #557 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Political Freedom #1311 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Civil Rights & Liberties

Customer Reviews

Bawer (*While Europe Slept*) argues that, in the name of tolerance and multiculturalism, critics of radical Islam are being silenced by left-leaning academics, politicians and journalists. He argues that self-censorship has become widespread in the Western press, referring to outcry following the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten's* 2005 publication of cartoon depictions of the prophet Muhammad, when many international news outlets debated whether the paper had the right to print them in the first place—an attack on freedom of the press coming from within its own ranks. While Bawer does an admirable job of rooting out hypocritical statements made by pundits and

politicians, readers might wince at his pronounced anti-Muslim bias— he claims that Muslim immigrants to the West are in a war to snuff out free speech and equal rights. Bawer's thought-provoking arguments are overshadowed by his shrill condemnations and a cranky attack on those who paint him as a polarizing figure. The book would have been helped had the author remembered his own statement, made early in the book: Free speech doesn't mean immunity from criticism. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Narrowing his scope from *While Europe Slept* (2005) but retaining its theme of radical Islamic assault on Western civil liberties, Bawer files a hefty brief of case reports on Muslim campaigns against free speech, primarily in western Europe but also in Canada and the U.S. Official infatuation with political correctness (PC), the determination that no one ever be offended, and multiculturalism, the dogma that all cultural perspectives are equally and universally valid, undergird what Bawer believes amounts to a surrender of Western liberal traditions. What may seal the fate of free speech, he argues, are the apparent inability of Western ruling elites to be offended by Muslims rioting, threatening by fatwa, and murdering non-Muslims (Bawer fully presents instances of all three, many of them known, though insufficiently, by Americans) and to assert the priority of Western liberal values in the West. Since he continues to write about free-speech clashes, Norwegian resident Bawer says, he increasingly risks charges of violating Muslims' legal right not to be criticized in more and more European countries. Moreover, because he is gay, and because radical Islam prescribes death for homosexuality, as sharia law becomes the law in Muslim-majority areas—a development well underway—his life is in burgeoning jeopardy, too. Sublimely literate and rational, Bawer is no crank, however angry he gets. This, like its immediate predecessor, is an immensely important and urgent book. --Ray Olson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is uncomfortable for Americans to read, invested as we are in the ideas of freedom of religion and freedom from religion, which when taken together provide a reasonable degree of separation of Religion and the State. Western democracies also have the right of free speech, and are generally in favor of the acceptance of new immigrants. None of those values are acceptable under Islam, which seeks to control everyday life in a rather fascistic way. There is a prescription for every phase of one's life and one should simply submit to the religious/political authorities, who after all, are our betters. The book catalogs the multiple serious offenses that have occurred in Europe

while journalists, growing up under generations of multiculturalist indoctrination, spewed out misinformation in an attempt to hide the facts, and deflect the ire of native Europeans. The book catalogs the many serious offenses that have occurred in the name of Islam. Taken all together these revelations, now a decade old, inevitably produce the feeling that Islam and the Western liberal democracy are incompatible.

Author Bawer has done yeoman work in exposing the curtailment of free speech in the West and notably in the US in order not to offend Muslims. Sometimes this is as a result of overt threats by Muslims, sometimes it occurs due to self-censorship to ward off such threats and criticism. In any case it is cowardly, and ultimately self-defeating. This work is replete with examples of such instances from beginning to end, but in spite of the author's courage in writing this book, I note that the publisher saw fit to omit the cartoons that brought the most direct threats from the Muslim world. It seems like self-censorship is alive and well. Frankly I have seen much worse anti-Christian "works of art" in the US, but these were allowed to be publically displayed. I guess Christians aren't willing to murder people over such issues. Not only is the entire theme timely and important, but so are several side points. The author mentions "dhimmitude" -- a concept that should be loudly proclaimed on our Government-controlled media (NBC and its various outlets and affiliates) and taught in our schools until every American understands what it means. Non-Muslims are not merely 2nd class citizens in Muslim countries under Sharia law; they pay a tax for the privilege of not being a Muslim, cannot fight a Muslim, and their oaths are not valid. Frankly their status is much lower than that of blacks in the US during the Jim Crow years. One must remember that the Qur'an definitely states that non-Muslims must be subordinate to Muslims and are not equal to Muslims in any sense. So much for "All men are created equal." In addition, we in the US should also know that the Turkish word for non-Muslims is the same as "cattle." That supported the children tax that was levied on Christian towns in the Balkans to fill the Janassary Corps and harems of the Ottomans. Gee, no wonder the Serbs don't like the Muslim Bosnians. So why do we? Nonetheless, political correctness in the West & the US is turning free speech into a mockery. Only the Muslims (and the radical leftists in the US) actually have free speech -- for the rest it is already a lost right. Bawer does well to prove this fact, and his scholarship is impressive. One would hope that more than a few are reading this book, but it doesn't look like it. Highly recommended. The hour is late.

This book illustrates how politicians, journalists, and others in positions of influence urge, and often enforce, eggshell walking in relation to all things Islamic. Rather than tackling the unreasonable and

often fearsome behaviour of Islamic elements in Western society, the onus is placed on us to keep our behaviour within narrow confines lest we set off a wave of rioting and violence at the hands of our cultural enrichers. 'Surrender' is an appropriate name for this book, and our leaders' cravenness that this book highlights is very concerning considering they are paid to oversee our wellbeing. Those who have the courage to expose the danger facing the West are themselves vilified. Also, deceptive pictures of Islam and Islamic figures are painted to placate our healthy concern. This book contains numerous examples of what I've mentioned above. This is a very good book which is well worth buying.

This is one brave and much needed book. The author points out how the world has treated Islamic ideology with kid gloves. No religion, be it Judaism, Christianity or Islam, should be treated in the public square in this way. We are not obligated to be apologists for any ideology at all. In painstaking detail, Bawer walks the reader how too many places in the world today have done just that when it comes to Islam. It's time to tell Muslims, just as we tell Christians and Jews, that religion is not off the table when it comes to criticism.

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