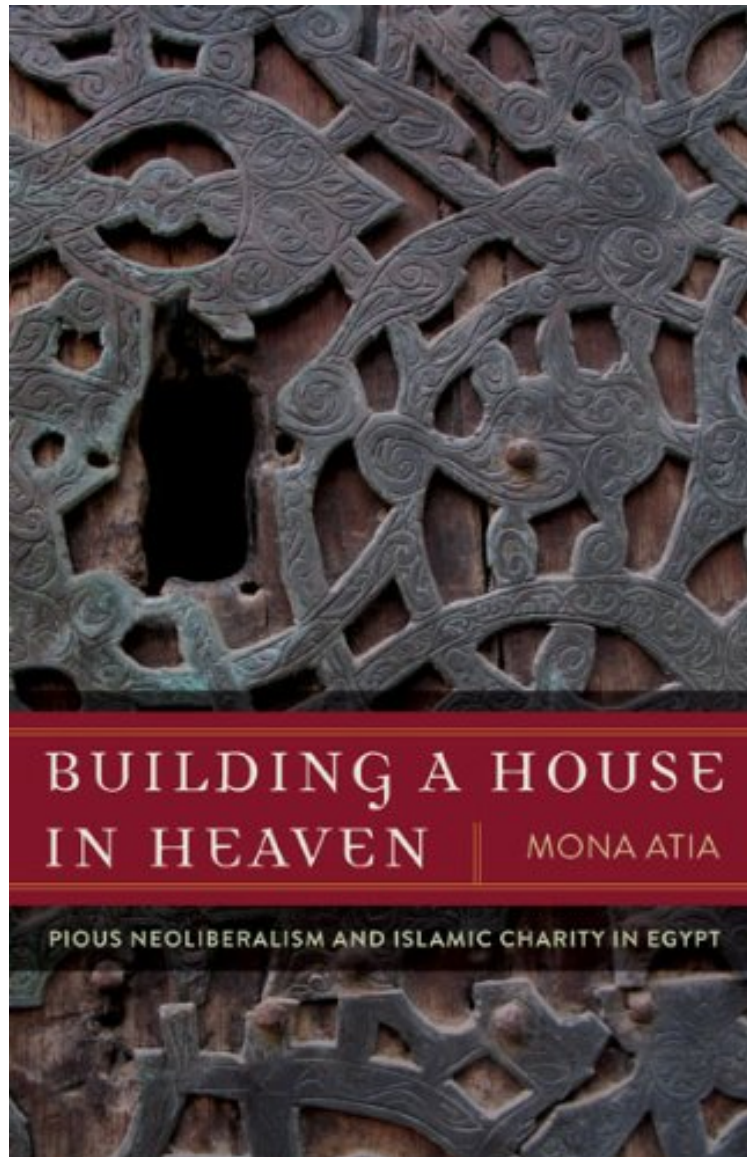


[Mobile ebook] Building a House in Heaven: Pious Neoliberalism and Islamic Charity in Egypt (A Quadrant Book)

Building a House in Heaven: Pious Neoliberalism and Islamic Charity in Egypt (A Quadrant Book)

Mona Atia

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Mona Atia : Building a House in Heaven: Pious Neoliberalism and Islamic Charity in Egypt (A Quadrant Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Building a House in Heaven: Pious Neoliberalism and Islamic Charity in Egypt (A Quadrant Book):

1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Hashem SherifRepetitious and superficial0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rethinking the East/West Binary in a Neoliberal AgeBy L. PierceMona Atias *Building a House in Heaven: Pious Neoliberalism and Islamic Charity in Egypt* is a wonderfully complex reading of the intersections (though not mergers, which is important) among market economics, religious fundamentalism, and globalized identity that should, on my view, be required reading for any student or scholar of the critical humanities over the next decade at least. Atia rethinks familiar concepts in the critical conversationneoliberalism and fundamentalism key among themusing richly detailed localized examples that border on some of the best ethnography Ive ever read (although it would be reductionist to qualify this project as just another ethnographic inquiry). Atia takes critical aim at everything from the ground floor of the Rabia al-Adawiyya Mosque to intellectual designs for Arab Spring circulated among tech-savvy political revolutionaries in order to trace the logics of neoliberalism through what appear to be disparate sites of identity projection in modern Egypt. Without denying important differences, however, Atia sees a common thread: that all manners of faithreligious practice, family life, governmental administration, and political activismare saturated with the logics and rhetorics of temporality that exemplify neoliberalisms distinct power as a regime of truth and power. For communication and rhetorical scholars specifically, Atias work is incredibly important for its attention to the construction and deployment of spatiality and temporality across discourses to give rise to one overarching common sense: what Atia astutely labels pious neoliberalism. Thinking more generally from a concern with the world around us, Atias work is indispensable because it reminds us that neoliberal logics of economy and profit do not abide by overused distinctions such as the West and the East and that a globalized future demands a concerted effort to rethink the economycharitable or otherwiseas our guiding framework for a life lived together.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for anyone interested in contemporary EgyptBy Abraham HelalAbsolutely brilliant, an in depth look at Islamic Charity in Egypt. Thoughtful and accessibly written.

Charity is an economic act. This premise underlies a societal transformationthe merging of religious and capitalist impulses that Mona Atia calls pious neoliberalism. Though the phenomenon spans religious lines, Atia makes the connection between Islam and capitalism to examine the surprising relations between charity and the economy, the state, and religion in the transition from Mubarak-era Egypt.Mapping the landscape of charity and development in Egypt, *Building a House in Heaven* reveals the factors that changed the nature of Egyptian charitable practices: the states intervention in social care and religion, an Islamic revival, intensified economic pressures on the poor, and the subsequent emergence of the private sector as a critical actor in development. She shows how, when individuals from Egypts private sector felt it necessary to address poverty, they sought to make Islamic charities work as engines of development, a practice that changed the function of charity from distributing goods to empowering the poor. Drawing on interviews with key players, Atia explores the geography of Islamic charities through multiple neighborhoods, ideologies, sources of funding, projects, and wide social networks. Her work shifts between absorbing ethnographic stories of specific organizations and reflections on the patterns that appear across the sector.An enlightening look at the simultaneous neoliberalization of Islamic charity work and Islamization of neoliberal development, the book also offers an insightful analysis of the political and socioeconomic movements leading up to the uprisings that ended Mubaraks rule and that amplified the importance of not only the Muslim Brotherhood but also the broader forces of Islamic piety and charity.

"Mona Atia has given us a grand tour of the landscape of an increasingly Islamic oriented Egypt. She demonstrates how the states attempted control over popular practices of religion may have laid the ground for a subsequent religious revival. *Building a House in Heaven* uncovers the contradictions of the Islamist-led human development project and shows how older established practices of Islamic charity merge with market-based approaches, resulting in a unique form of pious neoliberalism that is increasingly shaping the future of Egypt."Nezar AlSayyad, University of California, Berkeley