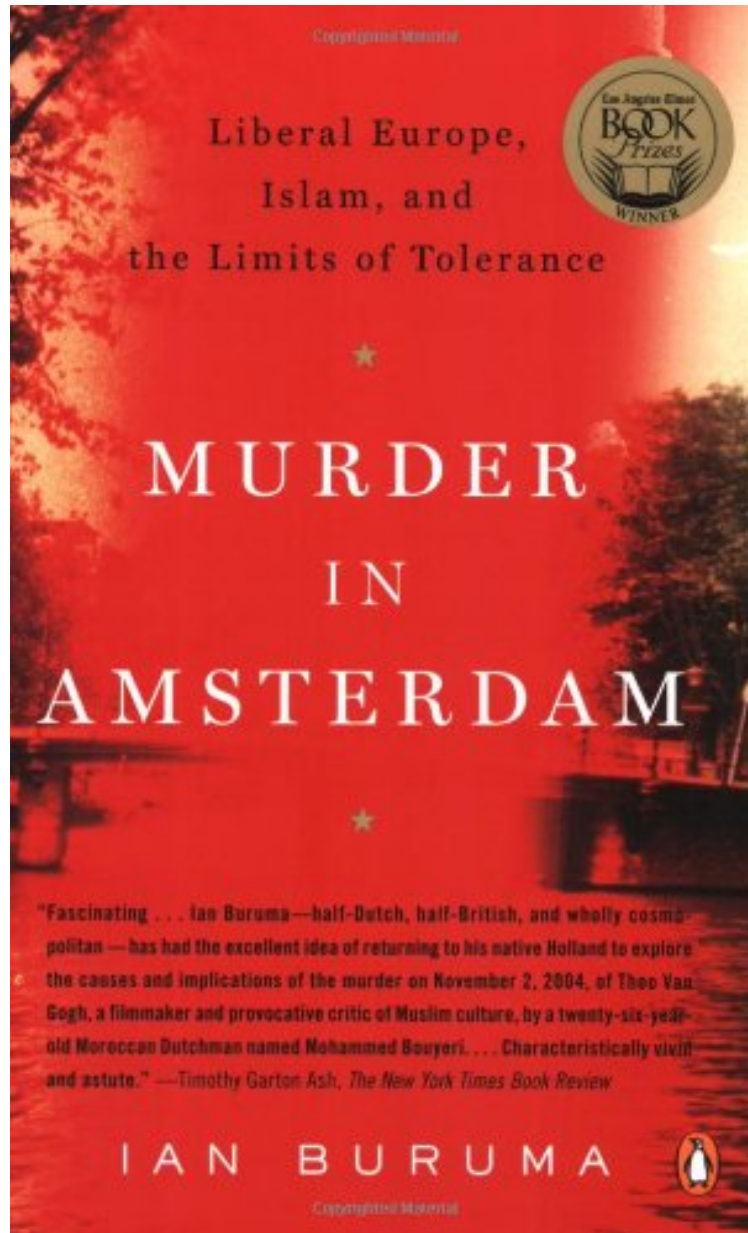


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# Murder in Amsterdam: Liberal Europe, Islam, and the Limits of Tolerance

*Ian Buruma*

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#135088 in Books Buruma, Ian 2007-08-28 2007-08-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.75 x .52 x 5.061, .44 #File Name: 0143112368288 pages | File size: 52.Mb

**Ian Buruma : Murder in Amsterdam: Liberal Europe, Islam, and the Limits of Tolerance** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Murder in Amsterdam: Liberal Europe, Islam, and the Limits of Tolerance:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read, but more importantlyBy Maria S.A great read, but more importantly, a cogent examination of the Netherlands' - and by extension the West's - struggle to apply its liberal values to the challenge of political Islam. Even more topical in 2017 than when it was published in the mid-2000s.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Filling in the GapsBy Klemens MetternichThe murders of both Pim Fortuyn and Theo Van Gogh are very important to everyone, not just the people of Holland. The fundamental problems of the Netherlands, and all of Europe for that matter, is the intolerance displayed by one religion over all others and the pressures put on the most vulnerable of people to murder those who disagree with them, and do so in the name of religion.This new and dangerous intolerance will eventually visit our shores also and inflame us before our blind leaders even know about it. Therefore, it is up to people like Ian Buruma and others to speak the truth and warn us of what has already happened and why, so that we will not be caught in the same trap of denial that has overwhelmed Europe. The book does that very well, teaching us that we have been asleep too long and have been assuming that "all's right with the world." All is not right with the world and it has become a very dangerous place. But it is the only world we live in and it is time to clean it up. Thanks, Ian, good job.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Cultural turmoilBy Jason CutshallThis book captured the current turmoil in Europe, which is almost exclusively cultural. It reads like a journal article and the writing flows very well. The research seems fair and honest. Even though there is always bias, this book seems to give the facts of each murder with very little person spin. I found this book very helpful in understanding the underlying tensions throughout Europe as a whole. In the Netherlands specifically it helped me to understand a lot of the anger and division that exists and was a great introduction to the political and cultural turmoil that exists there. I would recommend this to anyone who is living in Europe or travels there often and wants to understand current European tension.

A revelatory look at what happens when political Islam collides with the secular West Ian Buruma's *Murder in Amsterdam* is a masterpiece of investigative journalism, a book with the intimacy and narrative control of a crime novel and the analytical brilliance for which Buruma is renowned. On a cold November day in Amsterdam in 2004, the celebrated and controversial Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh was shot and killed by an Islamic extremist for making a movie that "insulted the prophet Mohammed." The murder sent shock waves across Europe and around the world. Shortly thereafter, Ian Buruma returned to his native land to investigate the event and its larger meaning as part of the great dilemma of our time.

From Publishers WeeklyVan Gogh, a provocative media personality in the Netherlands, was shot and stabbed on an Amsterdam street in November 2004 by a young radical, the son of Moroccan immigrants, who accused him of blasphemy against Islam. When Buruma (*Bad Elements*) returned to his homeland in an effort to make sense of the brutal murder, he quickly realized there was more to the story than a terrorist lashing out against Western culture. Exploiting the tensions between native-born Dutch and Muslim immigrants, van Gogh drew attention to himself with deliberately inflammatory political theater that escalated beyond control. Buruma refuses to blame the victim, though, giving equal weight to critics who insist Islam must adapt to European culture rather than the other way around, like Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Dutch politician who scripted van Gogh's final film, an avant-garde indictment of the religion's treatment of women. There is a strong sense of journalistic immediacy to Buruma's cultural inquiry, and if the result is a slim volume, that's because his dense, thoughtful prose doesn't waste a single word. (Sept. 11) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Bookmarks MagazineThe well-traveled Ian Buruma, a Bard College professor, previously published *Occidentalism: The West in the Eyes of Its Enemies* (2005) and *The Wages of Guilt: Memories of War in Germany and Japan* (2002), among others. Buruma's account of Theo van Gogh's death was first published in the *New Yorker* in January 2005. The book, an expanded version of the magazine piece, is timely. Buruma receives much praise for his writing and reporting skills, though several critics comment on the book's lack of structure. Buruma's willingness to examine the story from all angles is his strength, leading in the final analysis to a nuanced understanding of the situation and an evenhanded piece on a seemingly impenetrable issue. The book suffers from this impenetrability as well: Buruma provides a record of the events but few answers to the questions he inevitably raises. But has anyone else managed to answer these questions yet? Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.From BooklistThe Netherlands may be the Western country most affected by radical Muslim violence, with two major assassinations since 9/11, those of politician Pim Fortuyn, who had called for restrictions on Muslim immigration (Fortuyn's assassin wasn't Muslim, however), and media celebrity Theo Van Gogh, director of a film lambasting the Qur'an on women. Buruma returned to his homeland after Van Gogh's murder to gain understanding from figures in Dutch and Dutch Muslim politics and society who might provide it, including the Somali-born politician who wrote Van Gogh's fatal film, a Muslim prison chaplain, a teacher, a historian, and another Dutch Muslim politician. Their testimony disclosed that the vaunted Dutch multiculturalism is failing second-generation Dutch Muslims, the cohort to which Van Gogh's assassin and ordinary Muslim hooligans belong. There is enough credible blame for the situation to blanket all institutions and social strata in the Netherlands. Buruma sees the problem as primarily denying second-generation Muslims a home in the country in which they were

born. An ideal, absorbing companion to Bruce Bawer's excoriating *While Europe Slept* (2006). Ray Olson  
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