

"Out of the Harem"

"The Inspiring saga of Those Who Dared"

Closer look at the Middle East's women struggle towards getting their rights during the last two centuries and outlook on future perspectives.

Manuscript of 200 pages



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*The Inspiring Saga
of those who Dared*

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Synopsis

Opening the gate to women's equality with men was and still is a fundamental prerequisite for human progress worldwide. Yet, this drive is still not well addressed in Middle Eastern countries despite of courageous attempts by enlightened "*Nahda*" women and man reformists.

Who were those who dared confront fossilized patriarchal traditions camouflaged under the veil of unsubstantiated religious rules?

What pushed Muslim "*Nahda*" Islamists, as well as Christian and Jewish reformists (*Rifaa al-Tahtawi, Mohammad Abduh, Ziya Gokalp, Qasim Amin, Salim Sarkis, Butrus al-Bustany, Zeinab Fawwaz, Princess Nazli Fadil, Ain al-Hayât and Sivekiar, Lutfi al-Sayed, Warda al-Yazigi, Shartani sisters, Siddiqeh Dowlatabadi, Namik Kemal, Hend Nawfal, Safiyya Zaghlul, Hoda Shaarawi, Nabawiyya Musa, Malak Hifni Nasif, Morcos Fahmi, Fatima al-Yussef, Doreya Shafiq and Leila Doss* to mention a few) to set traditions aside and start caring for the occulted part of society?

Why have many of their grandchildren, who despite of having profited from many of modern times advantages, failed today to continue along the progress "*Nahda*" path and instead chosen to take refuge in the misleading safe-haven of conformity to irrational mythic behaviors values?

To what extend have perverse and double-standard western neo-colonial influence motivated Muslim radicalism to muzzle down the already acquired women rights in various Middle Eastern countries thus setting the difficult journey to gender equality fifty years backwards?

What are the prospects for the Middle Eastern occulted majority to reach a more harmonious and unobstructed gender relationship?

These are the sorts of issues treated in this essay.