



## The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West

*By Daniel Pipes*

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Daniel Pipes, Director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, explains why the publication of The Satanic Verses became a cataclysmic event, with far-reaching consequences. Pipes details what the fundamentalists perceived, and what the novel actually said, that proved so offensive to some Muslims.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

One of several forthcoming books on the subject, this sober study by a senior lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania describes and analyzes the international repercussions to the publication of *The Satanic Verses*. Pipes demonstrates convincingly that, although Salman Rushdie was preoccupied with the twin issues of religious sensitivities and censorship, he wanted to shake the world without accepting responsibility for what he wrought. Pipes also explains why the book is regarded as blasphemous and why many Muslims are convinced that it is part of a Western conspiracy against Islam. He questions the legality of Khomeini's death edict against Rushdie, and surveys Muslim reactions to the edict and Western responses to Muslim intimidation and state-sponsored terrorism. He shows that, ironically, the strongest opinions on all sides came from those who had not even seen, much less read, the novel.

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From Library Journal

There has been a sudden deluge of books about Salman Rushdie and the attempt to silence him. This book, written by an expert on Middle East politics, is one of the better ones. Besides recounting the events that took place between the publication of *The Satanic Verses* and the Ayatollah's edict, covered elsewhere by the republication of source documents and news accounts (see, for instance, *The Rushdie File*, LJ 3/1/90), this work examines the text of Rushdie's novel to see why the book was considered blasphemous by the Ayatollah. Pipes suggests that with his knowledge of Islam Rushdie must have known that his book would be considered blasphemous. The text and legality of the edict are also considered. Because of Pipes's expertise, this section and the subsequent evaluation of the repercussions of the edict are valuable, making the book of primary importance in its coverage of this controversy.

- Gordon Stein, *Univ. of Rhode Island Lib., Kingston*

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### Review

"A well-reasoned, all-inclusive weighing of the edict for the assassination of Salman Rushdie for his "blasphemous" novel, *The Satanic Verses*. (Pipes) is nothing if not a legal scholar, and here he weighs the pros and cons of Rushdie's act and Muslim ire down to the finest feather's-weight of right and wrong. . . .

Does Pipes himself - writing here for an extremely sober audience - have a hidden agenda in his study? Not when he seems to take into account every possible prejudice on both sides and shows them with as much fair-mindedness as can be humanly mustered. Worthy and important."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"There has been a sudden deluge of books about Salman Rushdie and the attempt to silence him. This book, written by an expert on Middle East politics, is one of the better ones . . . making the book of primary importance in its coverage of this controversy."

—Gordon Stein, *Library Journal*

"The Rushdie Affair is a lucid, balanced, often startling, and ultimately convincing analysis. . . . But the author, who is director of Philadelphia's Foreign Policy Research Institute, is an experienced analyst of the Middle East, and his book is distinguished by its multitude of illuminating explanations for the violence of

feeling with which Muslims sometimes reacted to *The Satanic Verses* . . . worthy. . . . Scrupulously fair, respectful of Islam yet unintimidated by the flood of threats and invective unleashed by *The Satanic Verses*.”

—Mark Caldwell, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“This is a highly enjoyable book to read, a work of impeccable scholarship that can be read like a thriller. . . . Pipes offers a number of important conclusions that merit attention at all levels.”

—Amir Taheri, *Los Angeles Times*

“Mr. Pipes has earned our gratitude for his scholarly presentation.”

—Sol Schindler, *The Washington Times*

“Daniel Pipes, a specialist in Middle Eastern affairs and head of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, modestly and appropriately disclaims any literary credentials. It is rather his firm understanding of Islamic tradition and shrewd apprehension of political realities that distinguish both his analyses of the Muslim perceptions of blasphemy in Rushdie’s work and his essay on the causes and world-wide effects of such perceptions. . . . Pipes the political scientist has an almost obsessive regard for laying equally bare the bones of bias - real or presumed - on both sides. . . . The book, as a whole is a useful gathering of facts, a scrupulous record of world-wide events, an interesting analysis of how the explosion of terror came about and a thoughtful presentation of its probable future effects.”

—Beverly Fields, *Chicago Tribune*

“Daniel Pipes, author of five other books on the Middle east and a sympathetic outside observer of Islam. . . . untangles the story so anyone can follow it.”

—Tom Blackburn, *The Palm Beach Post*

“Pipes has earned our gratitude for his scholarly presentation.”

—Sol Schindler, *Insight*

“[The subject] has been thoroughly examined in scholar-journalist Daniel Pipes’ judicious, carefully laced book.”

—David Elliott, *The San Diego Union*

“*The Rushdie Affair* is an extremely well-written and clear analysis of the issues raised. Mr. Pipes, who teaches Middle Eastern affairs at the University of Pennsylvania, comes down firmly against censorship but pays the Muslim critics the compliment of taking their arguments seriously and not trying (as so many have) to explain them away with ulterior political motives. He is informative about the Islamic background to the argument - producing, notably, some fascinating examples of earlier works, published in Muslim countries, that were apparently no less blasphemous yet failed to provoke quite the same furor.”

—Edward Mortimer, *The New York Times*

“This intelligent, easy-to-read book *The Rushdie Affair*, by an American scholar on Middle Eastern affairs puts the whole outrage into perspective.”

—Dean Sims, *Tulsa World*

“Now, Middle East expert Daniel Pipes has written a comprehensive overview of the affair. . . . The book is a valuable summary of the implications well beyond Salman Rushdie.”

—Philip G. Altbach, *Buffalo News*

“A fascinating and revealing book.”

—Lionel Rolfe, *Los Angeles Daily News*

“Daniel Pipes’ exhaustive re-examination of the fallout from Rushdie’s *The Satanic Verses*. . . . Pipes - director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia - threads his way through the thicket of moral, religious and intellectual issues here with a commendable rigor that even the late Ayatollah would find stimulating.”

—Tom Dowling, *San Francisco Examiner*

“*The Rushdie Affair*, a savvy, fair-minded analysis by Daniel Pipes of Philadelphia’s Foreign Policy Research Institute.”

—Dennis Drabelle, *USA Today*

“Daniel Pipes has written an illuminating, provocative, and ultimately frightening account of the Rushdie affair. In his hands, the story ceases to be one of a crackpot religious fanatic imposing his will on a defenseless author and an ignorant populace. Instead, Pipes fleshes out the remarkable series of events to demonstrate a political, religious and cultural Armageddon. As Pipes carefully details, it is a grave mistake to ignore the implications of the Rushdie affair. . . . This book is best described as an original, a primer for Western readers. . . . Daniel Pipes is a thoughtful researcher. His book not only contains an exhaustive compilation of the statements and deeds of the major players in the Rushdie affair, it also remarks on significant silences and non-deeds.”

—Samuel Seidner, *The Boston Jewish Times*

“This book . . . provides the most readable accounts about the most (in)famous writer-heretic of the late 20th century.”

—B. B. Lawrence, *Choice*

“Author Pipes has burrowed beneath these surface events to reveal a subterranean world of ironies associated with the Rushdie affair. . . . The path to that understanding has become more accessible through Pipes’ careful rendering of the Rushdie affair.”

—Arnold Ages, *Heritage Southwest Jewish Press*

“Daniel Pipes has written a fast-paced and clearly understandable explanation of the entire Rushdie affair, explaining and exploring why Rushdie’s book shook Iran and the Muslim world and why the Western Christian world responded so vigorously. The book is vital to understanding the differences and similarities between these two religious camps, particularly in light of subsequent events in the Middle East that will probably be of concern to the West, both diplomatically and economically, for many years to come. . . . Comprehension of the forces in play in *The Rushdie Affair* will be of vital importance in understanding our diplomatic needs in the Middle East in the coming decades.”

—Margery H. Livas, *The News*

"Daniel Pipes's *The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West* appeared in 1990, when tensions provoked by *The Satanic Verses* were still running high. Even after two decades it remains the most balanced account of the events."

—Elizabeth Powers, *The Weekly Standard*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Luba Jacobs:**

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the headline The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West suitable to you? The actual book was written by well known writer in this era. Typically the book untitled The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the Westis a single of several books which everyone read now. This book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this e-book you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their plan in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this guide. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world on this book.

#### **Chad Jones:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West, you could enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

#### **Lloyd North:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written within good manner for you, dripping every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still hesitation The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one e-book that can break don't determine book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this specific!?! Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

#### **Denise Adams:**

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native or citizen will need book to know the change information of year to year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, can also bring us to around the world. By book *The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West* we can acquire more advantage. Don't someone to be creative people? To be creative person must choose to read a book. Merely choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't be doubt to change your life by this book *The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West*. You can more appealing than now.

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