



by Emran Feroz
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Non-Fiction

Nothing New on the Western Front: a Muslim life between the Alps and the Hindu Kush

*Vom Westen nichts Neues. Ein
muslimisches Leben zwischen Alpen
und Hindukusch*

review

In this timely and compelling memoir, author and journalist Emran Feroz tells the story of growing up between two vastly different worlds: Austria and Afghanistan. Taking the reader on a journey from his childhood to his professional life as a writer, war reporter and political commentator, the book spans three decades and interweaves personal memories with the history and present-day situation of Afghanistan. Keen to build bridges between East and West, this intelligent and readable book seeks to illuminate the entrenched racism and discrimination in Europe against the Muslim world in particular.

Born in Innsbruck to Afghan parents, Feroz grew up straddling two cultures. His father, who came to Austria as a student in the 1970s, was the first Afghan to live in Tyrol and unable to return to his homeland due to the Soviet–Afghan War. Subjected to racism and discrimination as a child, despite speaking Tyrolean dialect and growing up with Austrian cultural references, Feroz noticed a radical shift in the wake of 9/11 – now, in the eyes of many in the West, he

was a potential terrorist.

Yet, after travelling to Afghanistan himself, working as a war reporter and human rights activist, and later as a founder of the Drone Memorial – a virtual memorial for the victims of civilian drone strikes, which include some of his own family members – Feroz has honed his understanding of how the Other is perceived in both Afghanistan and Austria. Describing his political awakening and development of critical views on the West and its attitude towards the Muslim world, Feroz tries to break down barriers as well as building bridges between countries and cultures.

Against the background of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan and other events around the world – the ongoing conflict in Gaza, and the August 2024 riots in the UK – Feroz's considered and powerful memoir has much to offer. Seamlessly blending personal narrative with the research-led style that has informed his previous books, *Vom Westen nichts Neues* will appeal to readers of literary and political non-fiction who wish to broaden their horizons and advocate for change in the world.

about the author

Emran Feroz, born in 1991, has been reporting from and about Afghanistan for years, for the New York Times, taz and numerous other media outlets. He is the founder of a virtual memorial for civilian drone victims; in 2021, he was awarded the Austrian Concordia Prize in the human rights category for his work. He is the author of SPIEGEL bestseller "Der längste Krieg. 20 years of the War on Terror" (2021).

rights information

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