



Secret Affairs: Britain's Collusion with Radical Islam

By Mark Curtis

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The updated edition of *Secret Affairs* covers the momentous events of the past year in the Middle East. It reveals the unreported attempts by Britain to cultivate relations with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt after the fall of Mubarak, the military intervention on the side of Libyan rebel forces which include pro-al-Qaeda elements, and the ongoing reliance on the region's ultimate fundamentalist state, Saudi Arabia, to safeguard its interest in the Middle East.

In this ground-breaking book, Mark Curtis reveals the covert history of British collusion with radical Islamic and terrorist groups. *Secret Affairs* shows how governments since the 1940s have connived with militant forces to control oil resources and overthrow governments. The story of how Britain has helped nurture the rise of global terrorism has never been told.

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Secret Affairs: Britain's Collusion with Radical Islam By Mark Curtis Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #300674 in Books
- Published on: 2015-06-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.60" h x 1.30" w x 5.10" l, .86 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 388 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

As much of history is appropriated by the media and we are beckoned into an era of endless war, this superb book could not be more timely. Sensational in the best sense, it examines the darkest corners of the imperial past to reveal the truth behind today's news -- John Pilger Unearthing this largely hidden history is a contribution of the highest significance, and could hardly be more timely. -- Noam Chomsky This valuable and important book by Mark Curtis, the result of painstaking and extensive research into declassified files on British policy towards the Islamic world over the last half century, presents a far more accurate and balanced picture than the shallow simplicities fed by Bush's so-called war on terror. It shows in extensive detail how Britain and the US have repeatedly sided with radical Islamic forces in the Middle East and elsewhere as counterweights to check the rise of nationalism, as shock troops to bring about pro-Western regime change, and as proxies to fight wars against the West's enemies. There is no war between civilizations (Bush), no Manichaean struggle between the good and evil forces of Islam (Blair), rather the ever-present serpentine thread of shifting alliances to maintain British control of key energy resources and Britain's place in a pro-Western global financial order centred on Saudi Arabia. This is a fascinating account which can change outlooks and deepen comprehension of a hugely misunderstood drama, and it should be compelling reading before any further Middle East wars are set in train. -- Michael Meacher, MP Secret Affairs deserves to become a key reference point in the debate over terrorism and Middle East policy Metro a work of great importance and sobering conclusions Tribune enthralling, encyclopedic and damning Chartist Gripping stuff Sunday Business Post

About the Author

Mark Curtis is an author, journalist and consultant: his previous books include *Web of Deceit* and *Unpeople*. He is a former Research Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and was until recently Director of the World Development Movement. He has worked in the field of international development for 14 years, including as Head of Global Advocacy and Policy at Christian Aid and Head of Policy at ActionAid.

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