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Islam in the digital age : e-jihad, online fatwas and cyber Islamic environments

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Abstrak

The Internet is an increasingly important source of information for many people in the Muslim world. Many Muslims in majority and minority contexts rely on the Internet ? including websites and e-mail ? as a primary source of news, information and communication about Islam. As a result, a new media culture is emerging which is having a significant impact on areas of global Muslim consciousness. Post-September 11th, this phenomena has grown more rapidly than ever.Gary R. Bunt provides a fascinating account of the issues at stake, identifying two radical new concepts: firstly, the emergence of e-jihad (Electronic Jihad) originating from diverse Muslim perspectives ? this is described in its many forms relating to the different definitions of 'jihad', including on-line activism (ranging from promoting militaristic activities to hacking to co-ordinating peaceful protests) and Muslim expression post 9/11: secondly, he discusses religious authority on the Internet ? including the concept of on-line fatwas and their influence in diverse settings, and the complexities of conflicting notions of religious authority.Highlighting contradictory and diverse concepts of Islamic authority in this way, Islam in the Digital Age offers a unique insight into contemporary Muslim cultures in a post-9/11 context.