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Freemasonry and Radical Islam Had Significant Links, Author Reveals

For Immediate Release:

New York – March 15, 2015 – Since the birth of political Islam during the middle of the 19th century, many of the most influential Muslim radicals have had significant links to Freemasonry. That is the surprising findings of Angel Millar, author of *The Crescent and The Compass: Islam, Freemasonry, Esotericism, and Revolution in the Modern Age* (Numen Books, March 2015).

The first book to document connections between Islam and Freemasonry, *The Crescent and The Compass* shows that not only were figures such as Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani (an anti-colonialist activist, whose ideas influenced the later Islamist movement) and Shaykh Abdullah Quilliam (founder of the first mosque in Great Britain) active Freemasons, but that they attempted to use Freemasonry and related movements for political and social ends.

However, tracing its connections to Islam in the modern era, the book also opens up a new picture of Freemasonry itself, showing that beneath the official Masonic bodies there existed numerous “fringe Masonic” organizations – or “Rites” – that initiated new members through rituals inspired by mysticism and religion. Some of the Freemasons involved were influential in underground spiritual movements in the West, which had likewise drawn on non-Western faiths. While ancient Egyptian mythology, alchemy, Cabala (a Jewish and Christian mystical system) were influential early on, by the end of the 19th century, Islam had had an influence on “fringe Masonic” Rites, coloring their rituals with Islamic symbolism.

Seeing fringe Masonry and related spiritual movements as underpinning New Age spirituality and the popularity of yoga, meditation, and Buddhism today, Millar looks at a number of thinkers and societies influenced by Islamic spirituality and Freemasonry.

There are numerous surprising details in *The Crescent and The Compass*, from the formation of previously unknown secret societies to the role of Islamic mysticism in the thought of figures as diverse as Ayatollah Khomeini; Charles, Prince of Wales; and Rene Guenon, a former Catholic and Freemason who converted to Islam and founded the Traditionalist school of spiritual thought. Also explored in detail for the first time is the role of anti-Freemasonry in Islamist movements such as Hamas and al-Qaeda.

All in all, *The Crescent and The Compass* illuminates numerous important but secret and forgotten connections between the West and Islam that have helped shape the world we live in today for better and for worse.

The Compass: Islam, Freemasonry, Esotericism, and Revolution in the Modern Age is available from Amazon.com, [here](#).

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