

Reviews

STEVE SLOCUM

Peace Activist, Author of *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World*

www.steveslocum.com

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

- "Well-researched, cogently argued, and drawing on the work of scholars as well personal insights, Slocum's work avoids clichés and deeply examines the complex relationship between Islam and the West. In the end, Slocum unmasks a clash of ignorance and reveals a shared humanity to which we can all relate."

– **Muhammed Hassanali,**
Booklist Starred Review

- "In his comprehensive, helpful debut, Slocum, an aircraft designer and former missionary, encourages Christians to establish friendly relationships with Muslims... Effectively countering pernicious, misinformed narratives, this is an essential contribution to interfaith studies."

– **Publishers Weekly**

- "An exploration of Islamic beliefs and history that aims to challenge American Islamophobia... A clear, concise, and thoughtful introduction to Islam."

– **Kirkus Starred Reviews**

- "Steve Slocum's *Why Do They Hate Us?* offers readers a highly accessible introduction to Islam as a lived religion along with a helpful blueprint for how to build and maintain peace between Muslims and majority populations in the West. In an era of rampant Islamophobia, Slocum's book is essential reading."

– **Todd H. Green, author of *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West***

- "*Why Do They Hate Us?* takes a stand against prejudice by advocating a different approach to not just tolerating Muslims, but getting to know them on a personal level... It stands out from the crowd in offering a powerful blend of historical, political, and personal perspectives on a very complex issue..."

– **Midwest Book Review**

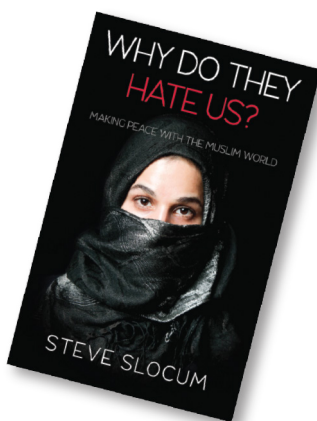
- "Steve Slocum skillfully encourages us to reclaim our sight and rediscover the beautiful truth about our Muslim sisters and brothers: just like us, they

are beloved image bearers of the Divine. This book is for the peacemakers, the haters, and everyone in between who long to see more clearly and who dare to believe that God inhabits uncommon friendships and, through them, is remaking the world."

– **Jer Swigart, Co-Founder, The Global Immersion Project, Co-Author, *Mending the Divides: Creative Love in a Conflicted World***

- "Steve, I wasn't able to just glance through your book. I had to read it slowly. I found it to be captivating, full of important information, relevant to every American."

– **Safi Kaskas,**
Muslim Peacemaker, Activist, Author,
The Qur'an - A Contemporary Understanding



- "Why Do They Hate Us? provides needed information about the Muslim world to help non-Muslims see through misleading propaganda. It provides real inspiration based on Steve Slocum's experiences as a Christian living in a Muslim country and travelling widely in the Muslim world. Most important, it is an invitation to join Steve as a peacemaker, learning to love our 1.5 billion Muslim neighbors as we love ourselves. That's an important mission, and a lot depends on our being part of it."

– **Brian D. McLaren,**
Author, Speaker, Activist

- "Steve Slocum's book is a labor of love for humanity. Part historical, contemporary, and reflective in light of his personal transformation, Slocum brings the reader on a beautiful ride towards understanding, compassion, knowledge, and the kind of genuine religious pluralism that our worlds desperately need in the 21st century. This accessible written book is an important antidote to the rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. and beyond. It will appeal to those who are seeking the truth about the Islamic faith and those who are hoping to liven their spirit by reading the work of a committed bridge builder."

– **Dr. Craig Considine,**
Department of Sociology, Rice University

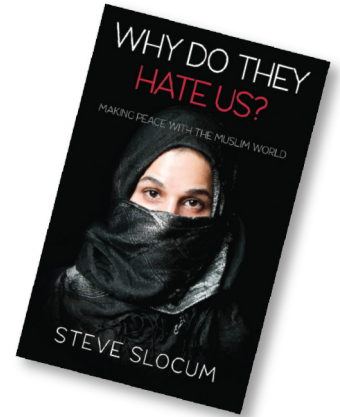
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Fact Sheet

Islamophobia: Fear Used For Political Gain Has Deadly Consequences

- 75% of Americans don't know a Muslim
- 55% Americans know "little or nothing" about Islam
 - Americans' opinions about Islam are shaped by the media, political rhetoric, and religious bias
- Islamophobia is real—and deadly -- and being used for political gain
 - Well-funded anti-Muslim centers pump out false information for political purposes - with callous disregard for the innocent casualties
- From 2008-2013, \$206M has funded 33 Islamophobic misinformation centers* including:
 - ACT! For America (actforamerica.org)
 - Center for Security Policy (centerforsecuritypolicy.org)
 - Middle East Forum (meforum.org)
 - Jihad watch (JihadWatch.org)
- In 2016, anti-Muslim assaults reported to the FBI spiked to 37% -- more than in the year of the 9/11 (2001) attacks
- In the two years leading up to the 2016 presidential election, Donald Trump made approximately 30 public statements making false claims about Muslims or threatening discrimination
- As President, Trump has penned three versions of an executive order banning citizens from six Muslim majority nations from traveling to the United States.
- From 2016 to 2018, the government cut admissions for Muslim refugees by 91%
- Middle East countries account for fewer than 15% of the world's population of Muslims
- 50 dead in Christchurch Mosque Massacre March 15, 2019
- 6 dead in Quebec City Mosque Shooting January 29, 2017
- SalaamUSA.org creates friendship and mutual understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims.
 - Non-religious, non-partisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation
 - Bringing people together to overcome fear
 - Proven process is designed to guide non-Muslims from fear to friendship
 1. Awareness events with Muslim speakers
 2. Mosque visits
 3. Friendship dinners
 4. Interactive discussion groups
 5. Diplomacy-hosting visiting dignitaries
 6. Travel to Muslim lands
- American Muslims have seen the greatest growth of bias-motivated violence in two of the past three years.



Author Bio

STEVE SLOCUM

Peace Activist, Author of *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World*

Short: (50)

Steve Slocum, author and peace activist, founded SalaamUSA.org with the goal of creating friendship between Muslims and non-Muslims. Motivated by his experience as a missionary in Kazakhstan, Slocum wrote *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World* to counter rampant Islamophobic political rhetoric and give a voice to Islam's peaceful mainstream.

Medium: (121)

Steve Slocum, author and peace activist wants people to understand their Muslim neighbors. The founder of SalaamUSA.org, Slocum recently released his debut book, *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World* to counter rampant Islamophobic political rhetoric and give a voice to Islam's peaceful mainstream. In 2018, he founded SalaamUSA.org, a nonpartisan, nonreligious organization, whose mission and meaning is 'peace', to create mutual understanding between Muslims, Christians, Jews and the non-religious. Through SalaamUSA and his new book, Slocum hopes to fight the fear, prejudice, and violence surrounding Islamophobia. He is an ambassador for the Parliament of World Religions and a presenter at the 2018 Parliament in Toronto. He is a frequent keynote speaker and media expert.

Long: (159)

Steve Slocum, author and peace activist, founded SalaamUSA.org with the goal of creating friendship between Muslims and non-Muslims. Motivated by his experience as a missionary in Kazakhstan, Slocum wrote *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World*. When Slocum took his family of five to Kazakhstan as missionaries their time spent immersed in this culture and the iconic Muslim hospitality left a lasting impression. Once back in the states, Slocum resumed his engineering career, but grew uneasy with the growing level of animosity towards Muslims. In 2018, he founded SalaamUSA.org, a nonprofit organization, whose mission and meaning is 'peace', to create mutual understanding between Muslims, Christians, Jews and the non-religious. Slocum has set out to build bridges of peace through his nonprofit and his new book. He is an ambassador for the Parliament of World Religions and a presenter at the 2018 Parliament in Toronto. He is a frequent keynote speaker and media expert.



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Author, Former Missionary Pens Book to fight Prejudice, Fear of Muslims
Peace Activist Steve Slocum uses new book, "Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World", to tackle Islamophobia, shed light on peaceful Muslim mainstream.

San Diego, CA (June 28, 2019) – Five years as a Christian missionary in Asian Kazakhstan was a game changer for Steve Slocum, altering forever his view of Muslims and his understanding of Islam. Today, with anti-Muslim sentiment at an all time high, Slocum is on a mission to dispel rumors and myths about Muslims and shed light on Islam's peaceful mainstream in his debut book, *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World*, and through his work with SalaamUSA, the nonprofit he founded in 2018.

In an era of rampant Islamophobia, Slocum's book is essential reading."

- Todd H. Green, author of *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West*

With the release of his debut book, Slocum takes a stand against Islamophobia and encourages his readers to see through the rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. and beyond. By taking the spotlight off the extremists, Slocum instead exposes the heart of the everyday Muslim through Christian outreach and clears up common misconceptions about jihad, Sharia law and the role of women in Islam.

"In his comprehensive, helpful debut, Slocum encourages Christians to establish friendly relationships with Muslims ." - Publishers Weekly

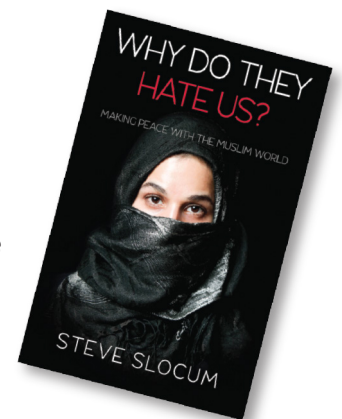
When Slocum returned from his missionary work in 1999, he resumed his engineering career, but became uncomfortable with the growing animosity towards Muslims. *"When 9/11 happened, just like everyone else, I was traumatized,"* said Slocum. *"Having experienced the generosity and hospitality of the Muslim Kazak culture, I couldn't fathom Muslim radicals flying packed airliners into skyscrapers filled with people."*

After 9/11, the world became more fearful of Muslims, and the current political climate has only exacerbated the issue, culminating in the rise of horrific hate crimes like the New Zealand Mosque shooting. *"I believe many Americans have never healed from the trauma of 9/11. Others have misconceptions about Islam fed by media coverage of extremists,"* Slocum added.

Most Americans don't even know a Muslim, and 55% say they know "little or nothing" about Islam, according to SalaamUSA. *"In this void, Americans' opinions about Islam are shaped by the media, political rhetoric, and religious bias,"* said Slocum. *"Islamophobia is a present and rising force in the West."* says D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer at Midwest Book Review. *"(Slocum) takes a stand against this prejudice by advocating a different approach to not just tolerating Muslims, but getting to know them on a personal level. In this case, familiarity does not breed contempt. It leads to understanding."*

This personal interaction across cultures and faiths is the crux of Slocum's work with SalaamUSA. From awareness events to mosque visits to the face-to-face friendship dinners and discussion groups, Salaam's programs help fight fear with friendship.

"Since people fear what they don't know, we create curriculum and hold workshops that help people better understand the peaceful mainstream – rather than the extremism that dominates the headlines, Slocum said.



"There could have been no better timing for the appearance of "Why Do They Hate Us?" than in these modern times," added Donovan.

The book which releases on July 16 (Top Reads Publishing) has garnered rave early rave reviews from the trade and scholars alike, many calling it 'essential reading' and a thoughtful first hand examination of Islam's peaceful mainstream. A few of the reviews include:

"This book is an important antidote to the rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. and beyond. It will appeal to those who are seeking the truth about the Islamic faith and those who are hoping to live their spirit by reading the work of a committed bridge builder."

- Dr. Craig Considine, Department of Sociology, Rice University

"Well-researched, cogently argued, and drawing on the work of scholars as well personal insights, Slocum's work avoids clichés and deeply examines the complex relationship between Islam and the West. In the end, Slocum unmask a clash of ignorance and reveals a shared humanity to which we can all relate."

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"There could have been no better timing for the appearance of "Why Do They Hate Us?" than in these modern times," - Midwest Book Reviews

Slocum launches a national book tour with local book events at Warwicks in La Jolla on June 30 followed by Barnes & Noble stores throughout Southern California before heading up the coast as far as Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC to spread his message of interfaith peace and tolerance.

About Steve Slocum:

Steve Slocum, author and peace activist, founded SalaamUSA.org with the goal of creating friendship between Muslims and non-Muslims. Motivated by his experience as a missionary in Kazakhstan, Slocum wrote *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World* to counter rampant Islamophobic political rhetoric and give a voice to Islam's peaceful mainstream. Through SalaamUSA and his new book, Slocum hopes to fight the fear, prejudice, and violence surrounding Islamophobia. He is an ambassador for the Parliament of World Religions and a presenter at the 2018 Parliament in Toronto. He is a frequent keynote speaker and media expert based in San Diego.

About SalaamUSA.org:

SalaamUSA.org is a non-profit organization that focuses on creating mutual understanding between Muslims, Christians, Jews and the non-religious. Salaam uses events, community outreach and media to raise awareness of Islam from an unbiased, non-religious, nonpartisan perspective.



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Media Advisory

Christians and Muslims Come Together During Lent

Salaam and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral bring together Muslim leaders to share their stories and create understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims

WHO: Salaam, a non-religious, non-partisan organization that focuses on creating friendships and a mutual understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. Salaam USA has partnered with St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, a place of sanctuary and safety that celebrates diversity, and leaders in the Muslim community.

"Salaam's Lenten Interfaith Dialogue Series gives non-Muslims an opportunity to interact with Muslims from across the spectrum – conservative to progressive – in order to gain a firsthand understanding of the Muslim – American community." -Steve Slocum, Founder & President, Salaam USA

WHAT: During the contemplative season of Lent, Salaam and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral will present a six-week interfaith discussion series featuring key leaders from the Muslim community. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with the full spectrum of Muslims, progressive to conservative, enjoy a complimentary community dinner and a lively roundtable discussion. Registration for any or all of the weekly events is open to the public and available at SalaamUSA.org or <http://bit.ly/InterfaithSeries>.

WHEN: Every Wednesday March 13– April 17 at 6 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

- March 13: A Homophobic Mother's Journey – Siddika Jessa –Leader, CEO of WiderLens, runs development programs to inspire individuals towards positive and authentic Action by sharing her journey to acceptance of her son's same sex marriage.
- A Queer Muslim's Story – Kilian Colin , an American Muslim Queer activist, is working days and nights to bring awareness to the Muslim Queer community issues and to help more Muslim Queers to come out without fears of persecution.
- March 20: Israel and Palestine: Getting Through to the Real Issues – Steve Slocum , author of " Why Do They Hate Us?" and founder of Salaam, focuses on creating mutual understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims.
- March 27: Islam's Roots in Social Justice and Today's Progressive Muslims – Ani Zonneveld , founder of Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV), advocates for egalitarian expressions of Islam, for women's rights, LGBTQI rights, freedom of expression, and freedom of and from religion or belief by challenging human rights abuses in the name of Islam.



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