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# Windows Of The Soul: My Journeys In The Muslim World, National Geographic Books



## Synopsis

She lived and worked for two years in the Gaza strip, often in Islamic dress, once beaten bloody by Hamas. For several terrifying days in Somalia she was pinned down by sniper fire on the way to her hotel. She careened across the snowy Tien-Shen Mountains with Islamic fundamentalists in an ancient Lada, only to be detained and tossed out by the Uzbek KGB. All the while, she captured some of the most important stories of our time—the famine in Sudan, the violence in Gaza and Somalia, the daily life of Hezbollah. She traveled extensively with Yasser Arafat as one of the only non-Arab photographers given such access. She studied her Armenian roots in Iran and the Muslim culture in America. Recounted in gripping words and unforgettable images, Avakian's remarkable experiences will draw readers into the Muslim world to meet friends and terrorists, leaders and thieves and everyday people. Her style is always probing, yet compassionate. Given the interest in Muslim culture since the events of 9/11, Avakian's fascinating photographs and rich personal story will captivate, educate, and linger with us forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alexandra Avakian is a photojournalist and a member of the prestigious Contact Press Images photo agency in New York. She is a contract photographer with National Geographic and frequently publishes in Time, The New York Times Magazine, and many other publications. *Windows of the Soul: My Journeys in the Muslim World* was selected by Oprah for her top ten Christmas gift book selection. (2008) Website address: [www.alexandraavakian.com](http://www.alexandraavakian.com)

Seldom does one see the level of tenacity and determination shown by photographer Alexandra Avakian to produce the images seen in "Windows of the Soul". The artistic quality of the images is commendable, but expected. The real accomplishment here is getting into place to make the images in the first place. Every time I pick up this book, and one wants to revisit it often, I'm amazed at the remarkable journey made by Avakian to bring us these insightful pictures.

The photography is excellent and portrays the subject's lives with empathy. This book is a treasure and belongs on every world traveler's coffee table.

what a wonderful set of pictorial documents of our fragile world by a brave artist, thank you Alexandra for your journeys east.

informative book

What a talented photographer who tells a story with her lens. They say "a picture is worth a 1,000 words". Well, she meets that criteria and more. Scary to think where she has been and what she has seen. Phenomenal book.

This excellent book offers not only a rare insight to some of the most conflicted and volatile areas of the world over the last 20-plus years, it also provides a window into the dedication of Avakian herself, for the sake of true photojournalism, and what it takes to be a National Geographic photographer. Her curiosity and sympathy for those caught in conflict, regardless of political correctness, gave me a raw view of both the terror and simple love of humanity that she brings to her craft. Visually stunning, visceral, thought provoking, leaving me wanting to understand more about my fellow humans within the Muslim world. Jim Crouch

Windows of the Soul: My Journeys in the Muslim World This book offers a striking view of the Muslim world through the lens of an amazing photographer who challenges our misconceptions and prejudices. Alexandra Avakian takes us on a photographic journey that questions the popular perceptions of Islam and engages the reader to see the beauty of a world many will never see in person. Her images are exquisite. Her thoughtfulness is poignant. It is a gem worth opening again and again.

Ms. Avakian's photographs speak for themselves. Photocaptions and text are almost unnecessary except I couldn't wait to read the captions to learn more! The story of her brave journey is poignant and very informative. Even if you know nothing about this part of our world, you will be revited and enlightened by this talented photojournalist's book.

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