

***One Nation, Indivisible: Seeking Liberty and Justice from the Pulpit to the Streets.* By Celene Ibrahim. Foreword by Jennifer Howe Peace. Eugene Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2019. xviii + 194pp. ISBN 9781532645709 \$49.00 hardcover; \$29.00 paperback; \$9.99 eBook.**

With *One Nation, Indivisible: Seeking Liberty and Justice from the Pulpit to the Streets*, Celene Ibrahim, a formidable Muslim scholar of Islam, has crafted a volume of easy reading on profoundly important matters. “Easy,” I say, because its longest entry is its fifteen-page Introduction—and it is as much a witty and thought-provoking autobiography as it is a guide to what the reader can expect to find in the remainder of the book. And what will be found? Lesson after lesson on “more faithful ways of speaking to and about each other that are rooted in a commitment to upholding the human dignity of every person.” [xxvii]

Indeed, *One Nation, Indivisible* is a carefully curated collection of offerings from more than fifty activists, scholars, religious leaders, visual artists, and poets—Muslims and others who, together, provide a means by which “people of curiosity and conviction [may] discover more about the lives of American Muslims and the teachings of Islam.” [xxix–xxx] Poems, artwork, and essays are organized under seven headings: Eclipsing Hate; Crossing Thresholds; Healing Divides; Seeking Liberty; Celebrating Feminine Wisdom; Beyond Comfort Zones; and Standing With Resilience. Most entries are essays of about five pages or fewer. Hence, *One Nation, Indivisible* is the sort of anthology whose entries can be read in any order; may benefit from being read aloud; and, because of their brevity; and can serve well as discussion-starters in group situations. In the latter category I have in mind academic courses in seminaries, universities, and some secondary schools, on the one hand; on the other, learning circles sponsored by a house of worship or an interfaith organization. Depending on the purpose to which this book is put, some individual items will fall short; an entire section may seem unsuitable. However, again, this is not a book that insists on being read straight through—although you might find yourself wishing to do just that.

The process of gathering the contents of *One Nation, Indivisible* began, as Jennifer Howe Peace explains in her Foreword, during the run-up to the election of Donald Trump as US president in November 2016. Then and since, incivility and what Peace calls “the rhetoric of dehumanization” have done nothing but escalate. This book is meant as an antidote. No doubt, this book has been a helpful resource already and should remain so as we negotiate aftermath of the 2020 presidential election. In the Introduction, the editor voices her hope that the anthology she has constructed with such care “will both inspire and challenge, entertain and provoke.” [xlvi] I am confident that it has the capacity to do all four.

Dr. Lucinda Mosher
Senior Editor
Journal of Interreligious Studies
Faculty Associate in Interfaith Studies
Hartford Seminary



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