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Nota di contenuto	Contents; List of Figures and Tables; Introduction: Clash of Civilizations or Universal History?; 1. The Muslim Countries in the Movement of History; The Growth of Literacy and the Decline in Fertility; A "Disenchantment" 5 of the Muslim World; 2. Crises of Transition; Literacy, Contraception, Revolution; Muslim Crises of Transition; Islamism and Forecasting the Future; The Question of Ideological Content; 3. The Arab Family and the Transition Crisis; Patrilinealism and Patrilocalism; The Shiite Law of Inheritance; Endogamy; Psychological and Ideological Implications of Endogamy The Shock of Modernization4. Other Muslim Women: East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa; Malaysian and Indonesian Matrilocalism; The Mass Polygamy of Sub-Saharan Africa; Unprecedented Transition Crises?; 5. At the Heart of Islam: The Arab World; A Belated and Unexpected Transition: Literacy and Oil Wealth; France and the Acceleration of the Transition in the Maghreb; Backwardness and Division in Syria: Sunnis and Alawites; The Heterogeneity of the Arabian Peninsula; A European Lebanon?; The Palestinians: Occupation, War, and Fertility; 6. The Non-Arab Greater Middle East; Iran Ahead of Turkey

The Uncertain Role of the StateDemographic Transition and Nation-state; Religion, Demography, Democracy; The Pakistani Demographic Time Bomb; Demographic Normality and Political Threat; Afghan Parenthesis; Bangladesh: Overpopulation and Decline of the fertility rate; 7. After Communism; Accelerated Increase in Literacy; Un-Islamic Birth Control: Through Abortion . . .; . . . And Through Infant Mortality; Muslim Divergences in the Balkans; 8. Matrilocal Asia; A Normal Transition That Has Stopped; In Malaysia, Nationalism Rather Than Islam; 9. Sub-Saharan Africa  
Regional Differences in Fertility:Ethnic Groups and ReligionsMuslim Girls Spared by Mortality; Conclusion; Appendix: Total Fertility Rates of Muslim Countries; Notes

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## Sommario/riassunto

We are told that Western/Christian and Muslim/Arab civilizations are on the verge of destroying each other. The demographics of one group remain sluggish, while the population of the other has exploded, widening the cultural gap and all but guaranteeing the outbreak of war. Leaving aside the media's sound and fury on this subject, measured analysis shows another reality taking shape: rapprochement between these two civilizations, benefitting from a universal movement guiding humanity since the Enlightenment. This book's historical and geographical sweep discredits the notion of a s

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