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SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
 Political Science - Comparative Politics

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 Brookings Institution Press  
 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20036

*The following review appeared in the April 2007 issue of CHOICE:*

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Laurence, Jonathan. **Integrating Islam: political and religious challenges in contemporary France**, by Jonathan Laurence and Justin Vaisse. Brookings, 2006. 742p index afp ISBN 0815751502, \$52.95; ISBN 0815751516 pbk, \$22.95

This excellent book deals with the challenges posed by the presence in France of several million Muslims. It covers virtually everything one would want to know about the subject. French Muslims being the largest non-Christian minority in an officially secular nation, there have been evolving approaches to naturalizing and culturally assimilating these non-European immigrants; the problem of "communitarian" vis-a-vis French national identity remains. The authors deal with the treatment, on national and local levels, of an economically disadvantaged group of people in relation to the official commitment to liberty, equality, and fraternity. They analyze the problem of separating Muslims as people from Islam as a religion, and the effects of Muslim immigrants on political parties and interest groups, especially with respect to housing, jobs, and affirmative action. They discuss the government's attempt to organize Muslims and move Islam in a "western" direction. The study pays considerable attention to certain aspects of Muslim politics, particularly its relationship to terrorism and to French foreign policy toward the Middle East. The authors examine whether or not this has fed a growing anti-semitism countenanced by elements of the secular Left.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All readership levels. — *W. Safran, emeritus, University of Colorado at Boulder*