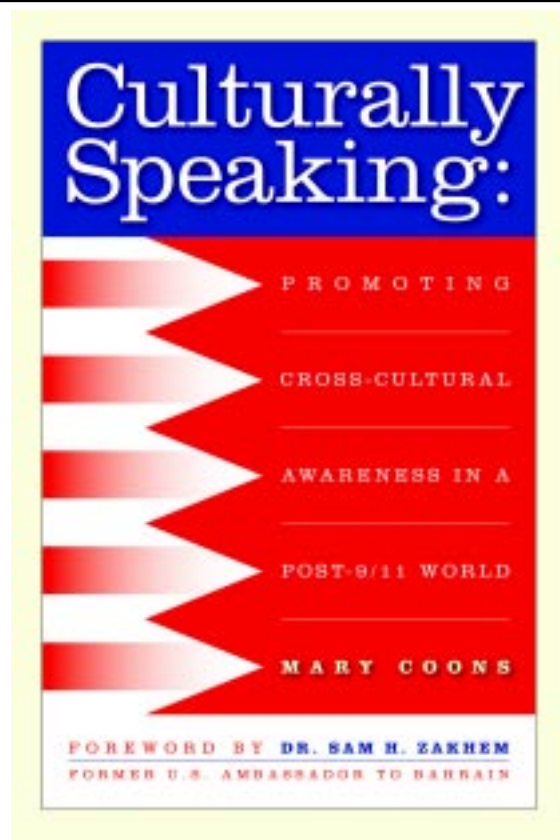


Dispelling Ignorance by Promoting Cultural Awareness



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To many Arabs, it seems as though America is a threat. But the United States is not a threat. *Ignorance* is the threatening enemy.

Culture is like the air we breathe; it cannot be seen, but it is there. And it is essential to life. As custodians of cultures and moral character, we have a responsibility to shape and protect those cultures. So, exactly how do we go about that? How do we promote a healthy culture to our children, neighbors, and society overall?

The Middle East is a large, diverse region where not only the status of women varies significantly from country to country, but also within the culture.

Culturally Speaking focuses on the Arab Muslims of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the misunderstandings that Americans have of them.

Through a compilation of interviews, Midwest American Christians and Bahraini Arab Muslims discuss views of religion and culture, hijab, media bias, women's empowerment, the Iraq war, and Sunni and Shia marriage practices. Through these conversations, the author identified eleven generalizations each group had about the other, and allowed those "myths" to be discussed from personal points of view.

About the Author

Mary Coons, president and owner of Pen & Ink Communications, has been a professional writer for more than 30 years, and is the international editor of the Bahrain Traveler, the official monthly travel magazine of the Kingdom of Bahrain. She has traveled extensively to the Kingdom since 2005. On her first visit, she was immediately in awe of the Arab culture, religion, and people.

Ms. Coons and her husband reside in Hanover, Minnesota when not in Bahrain.

