Mustafa Akyol will talk about his latest book *Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty*. From furious reactions to the cartoons of Prophet Muhammad to the suppression of women, news from the Muslim world begs the question: Is Islam incompatible with freedom? With an eye sympathetic to Western Liberalism and Islamic theology, Aykol traces the ideological and historical roots of political Islam. Through his careful reexaminations of the currents of Muslim thought, Akyol discovers a flourishing liberalism in the nineteenth-century Ottoman Empire and the unique “Islamo-liberal synthesis” of present-day Turkey. Only by accepting a secular state, he powerfully asserts, can Islamic societies thrive.

Mustafa Akyol is a Turkish political commentator and author based in Istanbul, Turkey. Since 2002, he has been a regular commentator in the Turkish media. He also appears regularly on Turkish TV and on political discussion shows. He has spoken on many platforms, including the Council on Foreign Relations, The Brookings Institution, The Heritage Foundation, The Mont Pelerin Society, the Cato Institute, the Acton Institute, the Discovery Institute, the Mises Institute and many universities around the world. Over the years, Akyol’s articles have appeared in publications such as *The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, IslamOnline*, and *The Huffington Post*. He has appeared on *BBC World, Al Jazeera English, France 24*, and other international TV channels.

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