Today Islamic movements throughout the Middle East are integrating religious ideologies into the institutional fabrics of modernizing societies, deliberately weaving together rationality and faith. While the normative discourse usually portrays such movements as deviations from the Western secular model, heterodox accounts often frame them in oppositional terms to Western liberalism. However by adopting a framework of binaries and borders, I argue that both approaches misrepresent Islamic movements and fail to account for why they are being embraced by pious Muslims. This paper will begin to conceptualize a framework for analyzing how faith and rationality commingle in the ideas and practices of contemporary Islamic movements, drawing upon key insights from ethnographic research on Shi’i movements in Lebanon. While Christian values continue to shape the foundations of Western societies, Asad (2003) explains how Europe’s historical and intellectual experiences have fostered a conception of rationality and faith as two very different and often mutually exclusive ways of seeing and knowing oneself and the world. This development now shapes our approach to the social sciences, and one result is that religion is supposedly privatized and the modern state and society are typically conceptualized by rational, instrumental logics (Habermas 1968, Gouldner 1970, Lyotard 1984, and Offe 1984). This intellectual framework ultimately helps to legitimize and reproduce the particular kinds of liberal capitalist societies that we see in the West. Whereas Shi’i movements in Lebanon are deliberately integrating both rationality and faith, a transformative political project that shares some similarities with Liberation Theologies in Latin America. I will adopt an interdisciplinary approach to critically examine the overlapping social and political foundations of these two postcolonial projects to help conceptualize a more open framework for understanding not only Shi’i movements in Lebanon, but also modern societies everywhere that are negotiating seemingly contradictory forces in daily lives.