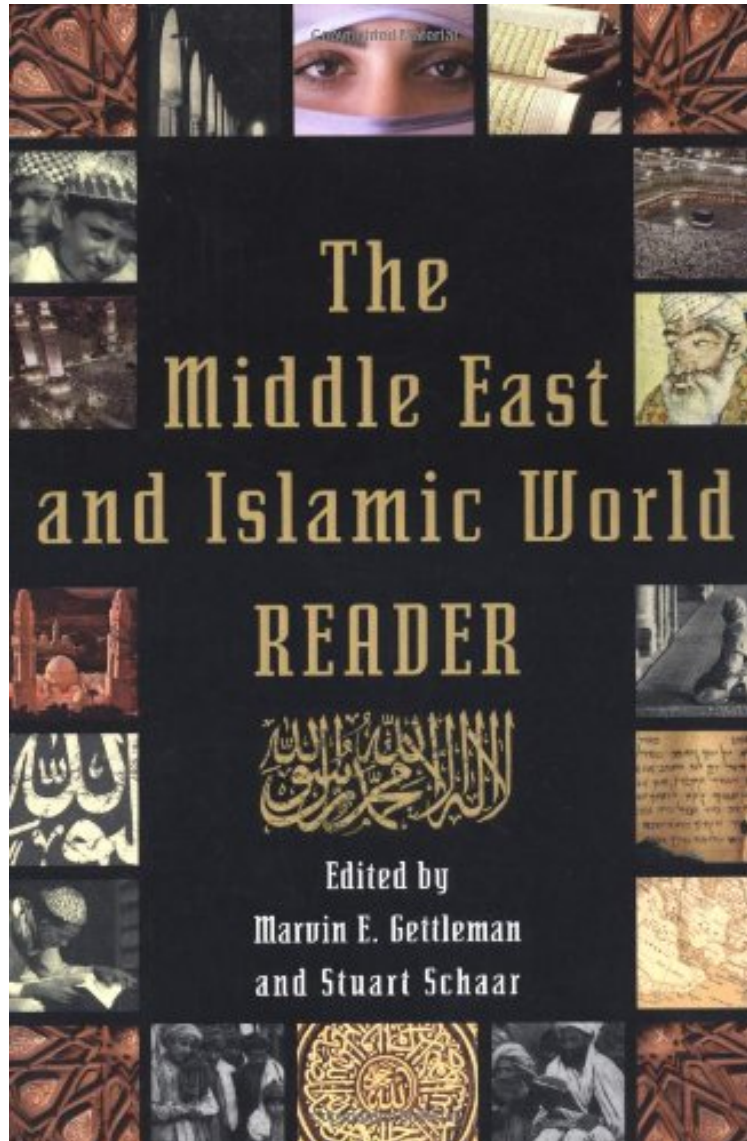


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## The Middle East and Islamic World Reader

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**From Grove Press : The Middle East and Islamic World Reader** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Middle East and Islamic World Reader:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great materials on the Islamic world By doc peterson I was very impressed with the selections Gettleman and Schaar used on the birth and growth of Islam, particularly their attention to Sufism. That they provided documents on (and about) women was another strong point in their collection. The first half of the book is fairly representative of the Islamic world, as it includes perspectives on Islam in India, the rise of

the Safavid empire in Persia, the Mogol conquest and rise of the Mamelukes in Egypt and some great samplings from the Ottoman age. I was disappointed, therefore by the last half of the book which, by comparison, was narrower. The selection of readings on "pan-Arabism" and "Baathism" were very well done, as was its detail on the creation of a secular Turkey and an independent Pakistan. However, as previous reviews have noted, the selection of materials on Lebanon and Syria are very thin. I found the extensive readings on the origins and various perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian question, however, to be very well done and were equally representative of both sides - including the peace proposal by the Saudis and an appeal by Palestinian intellectuals to stop suicide bombings. The final selections on geopolitics, oil and the cold war in the Near East and competing ideologies were also excellent - I was particularly impressed with the readings on Islamic radicalism. Evaluating the strength of the documents alone would warrant three stars. However, before each section the authors provide an excellent summary of the broader themes of the social, political and intellectual changes that the Islamic world was going through as demonstrated by the readings. Their scholarship is outstanding, their writing erudite and the relation of the major points to the specific documents is immediately clear. On these merits I give it an extra star. For serious students of history or those interested in a deeper understanding of the complex interplay of faith, ethnicity, social class and politics, this is an excellent resource, and is one I strongly recommend.

16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Top-Notch Scholarship  
By Jon H. Gettleman and Stuart Schaar produce a compilation of some of the most insightful and significant documents required for a sufficient understanding of the Middle East/Islamic World. Topics range from the origins of Islam, through the budding of modernity, all the way to the formation of OPEC, Arab/Israeli conflict, and 9-11. The book is set up similar to Gettleman's hugely popular "Vietnam and America Reader." All primary sources are given an in-depth introduction with a readable and complete set of historical context. This book is friendly enough for the layman and yet contains some of the most seminal, current, and balanced scholarship. The primary documents bring Middle East studies alive while providing the key to today's geopolitical and economic issues.

0 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good Book with a bias  
By David Anderson This is a really good book for looking at snapshots of the history and the political and religious divisions of the Islamic world. Had the editors been more objective rather than subjective, I would have given the book a 5 star rating.

The Muslim world is tremendously rich and diverse, yet few Westerners are familiar with the writings and teachings of a culture that in recent months has come to the forefront of world events. In their insightful new anthology *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader*, historians Marvin E. Gettleman and Stuart Schaar have assembled a broad selection of documents and contemporary scholarship to give a view of the history of the peoples from the core Islamic lands, from the Golden Age of Islam to today. With carefully framed essays beginning each chapter and brief introductory notes accompanying over seventy readings, the anthology reveals the multifaceted societies and political systems of the Islamic world. Selections range from theological texts illuminating the differences between Shiite and Sunni Muslims, to diplomatic exchanges and state papers, to memoirs and literary works, to manifestos of Islamic radicals. The anthology spans the distance from Tunisia to India through writings by such key figures as the early Muslim historian Ibn Khaldun, Turkish founding father Kemal Ataturk, Israeli statesman David Ben-Gurion, and the Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini. The readings chart the effects of the Islamic world's interactions with outsiders -- from the invasions of Central Asian nomads and Crusading Europeans in the Middle Ages, to European colonization in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries -- as well as its own internal evolution, through accounts of peasants, urban workers, and the experience of Muslim women. Wide-ranging and thought-provoking, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader* is a fascinating historical survey of complex societies that -- now more than ever -- are crucial for us to understand.