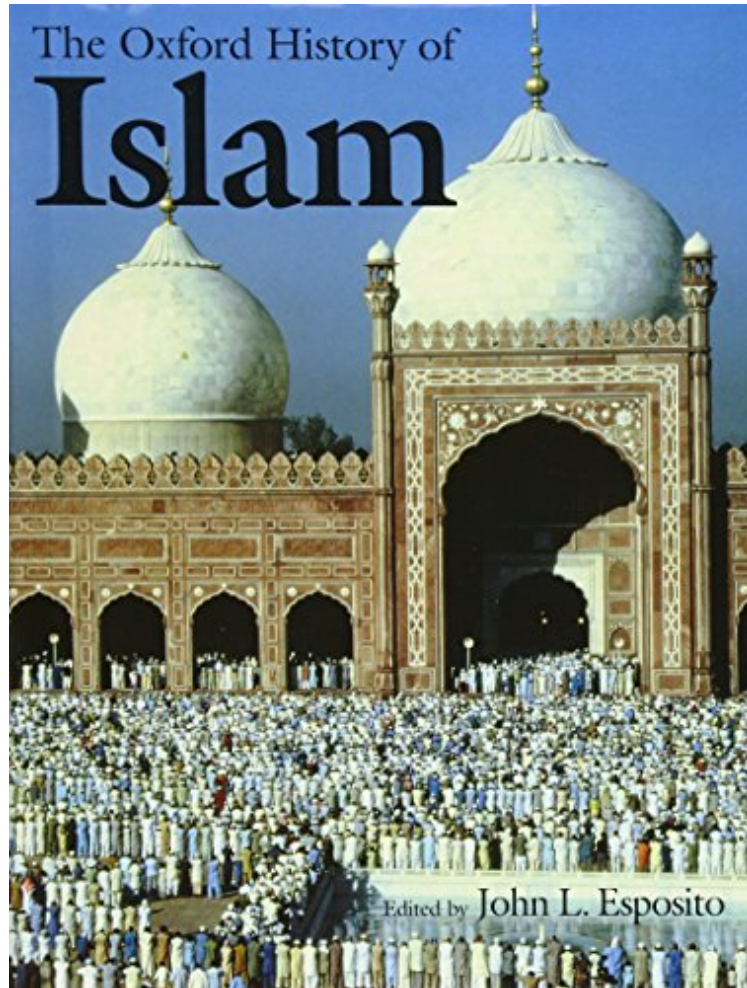


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The Oxford History of Islam

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#130073 in Books imusti 1999Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.70 x 1.70 x 10.10l, 4.65 #File Name: 0195107993749 pagesOxford University Press USA | File size: 31.Mb

From imusti : The Oxford History of Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford History of Islam:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An excellent introduction to Islam (and yes, I read the whole book)By Robert HayesWhenever I get interested in a topic, I like to go "all the way" and devour what material I can to better inform myself. Such was my intent in taking up this massive tome. I don't consider myself religious, by any means, but the subject of religion is interesting to me. Islam, in particular, has become a huge point of contention no matter what side you consider yourself to be on. And, in reading this book, I found Islam to be more diverse and nuanced than any mass media or politician would probably admit. Does that mean I up and convert? No, but understanding something is better than wholesale rejection and demonization. As far as the book itself is concerned, I'm pretty sure this would make a good textbook for an Islamic Studies course, if it already isn't somewhere (after all,

it IS an Oxford History). In telling the history of Islam, it is divided into 15 chapters (really, extended essays) that take a loosely chronological approach, but is also topical. The most valuable chapters to me were those on the earliest history of Muhammad, Islam's philosophical underpinnings, Shariah, theology, and (what was then) current/modern Islam. I also found the chapters on Islamic science, art and architecture to be quite interesting, further evidence of its cultural value. The chapters dealing with the rise and fall of the different Islamic empires was also valuable, but more of a World History refresher (and a bit dry at times). There's also a detailed chronology and selective bibliography for those who want to read further on the plethora of topics that the book addresses. I also appreciated explanation of the many Arabic terms that are central to an understanding of Islam, and which is reinforced by some overlap in the various chapters. However, if there's any one thing I took away from the book it's that, as a religion, Islam is as diverse and multi-faceted as its Judeo-Christian counterparts. It's just that nowadays, fundamentalists seem to have hijacked (for lack of a better word) the conversation and all of the media attention, reinforcing stereotypes and prejudices held by all sides. If there's one area where this book is lacking, but through no fault of its own, is the recent developments of Al Qaeda and ISIL as further neorevivalist/neomodernist movements. But as a pre-9/11 examination of Islam, I doubt you'd find a better, more concise, introduction to it than this. I'd like to close with a quote from the book's last chapter: "Like believers in their sister traditions, Judaism and Christianity, the critical question is the relationship of faith and tradition to change in a rapidly changing and pluralistic world." As I read through the book, I couldn't help but mentally draw parallels between Islam and Christianity as experienced here in the US. Hopefully, the various religions realize that they share a common struggle, even if the particular beliefs differ, and learn to coexist peacefully. Highly recommended for the serious (and open) minded reader, or student of religion.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Contains some remarkably stupid pieces

By Yasser S. Abououf

Histories of Arabs and Muslims have to walk a line, often very fine, between ridiculous cheerleading and ridiculous hostility. This book, although edited and published by reputable names, has a number of pieces in the ridiculous cheerleading category. The articles on Islamic law and Islamic science are prime examples. You are much better served with professor Lapidus' *A History of Islamic Societies* or the late professor Hourani's *A History of the Arab Peoples*. I am disappointed in Oxford and Esposito. Nice pictures though.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome on Kindle iPad app

By Lover of Humanity

This a classic for the Kindle iPad app and is worth , much much more than what I paid for it. More like about \$50 when I look at the research gone into it and the effort to insert maps, diagrams, sketches and photos to truly make it an encyclopaedia of the history of Islam. I didn't buy it for human stories but for events and a general description of Islam down the ages but with detail as far as events and occurrences. I want to discover through history how Islam contributed to humanity and this is a great start. I already have a number of Qurans and other details about the Life of Muhammad so this was to compliment those with a historical perspective not seeking great depth but it seems to cover even Baha'i and Babi religions so it's truly embracing and showing all the major happenings and effects that Islam has had on history. Just awesome and I'm thrilled that there's maps, sketches, drawings and photos both black and white and color to bring the book to life. And as I said it's worth much, much more than I got it for today. I feel I definitely underpaid for this as there is a tremendous amount of work done here.

Lavishly illustrated with over 300 pictures, including more than 200 in full color, *The Oxford History of Islam* offers the most wide-ranging and authoritative account available of the second largest--and fastest growing--religion in the world. John L. Esposito, Editor-in-Chief of the four-volume *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, has gathered together sixteen leading scholars, both Muslim and non-Muslim, to examine the origins and historical development of Islam--its faith, community, institutions, sciences, and arts. Beginning in the pre-Islamic Arab world, the chapters range from the story of Muhammad and his Companions, to the development of Islamic religion and culture and the empires that grew from it, to the influence that Islam has on today's world. The book covers a wide array of subjects, casting light on topics such as the historical encounter of Islam and Christianity, the role of Islam in the Mughal and Ottoman empires, the growth of Islam in Southeast Asia, China, and Africa, the political, economic, and religious challenges of European imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and Islamic communities in the modern Western world. In addition, the book offers excellent articles on Islamic religion, art and architecture, and sciences as well as bibliographies. Events in the contemporary world have led to an explosion of interest and scholarly work on Islam. Written for the general reader but also appealing to specialists, *The Oxford History of Islam* offers the best of that recent scholarship, presented in a readable style and complemented by a rich variety of illustrations.

.com The entire history of Islamic civilization is, of course, too much to cover in a single volume, but John Esposito comes close. In a book topping 700 pages and containing over 300 photographs, Esposito brings together experts in fields such as early Islamic history, art and architecture, science and medicine, Islam in Africa and Southeast Asia, and contemporary Islam. Beginners will be swimming in new discoveries, while old hands will find connections and facts they never suspected. Majid Fakhry, for instance, shows not only the influence of philosopher Ibn Rushd (Averroes) on European intellectuals but also unveils the claims and counterclaims within Islamic philosophy over time. Dru

Gladney takes us on an eye-opening journey through Islamic Central Asia and even China, where the Muslim Hui people are recognized as the country's third-largest minority nationality. And have you ever seen an exquisite mosque with towering spires made entirely of mud-brick, like there are in West Africa? Unfortunately, Esposito apparently couldn't find room here for separate sections on Sufism or Islamic literature, but there are more than enough mosques, paintings, historical maps, and tapestries throughout to keep you turning pages and learning with fascination. --Brian Bruya
From Publishers Weekly
A good introduction to Islamic history is hard to find, and readers interested in the world's second-largest religion can rejoice at finding this one. Esposito, professor of religious studies at Georgetown University, has brought together a fine cadre of scholars for this anthology. Fifteen articles cover almost every subject that might interest a novice in the field: philosophy, science, art, architecture and histories of Islamic empires and civilizations. The art (100 bw photos and 200 four-color illustrations) comes fast and thick, adding a great deal to the text. A particular virtue of the book is its extension of Islamic history into the present day, with articles focusing on colonialism, American and European Muslims and 20th-century Islamic revivalism. The book is not perfect, of course, and some of its faults are serious. Only one contribution is dedicated to religious belief and practice as such, and it is one of the weaker articles in the collection. Also, although Sufism is of paramount importance in Islamic history, there is no essay dedicated to the mystical branch of Islam, and the activities of Sufi orders form only a part of several of the historical articles. That said, this valuable and near-comprehensive tome would be a welcome addition to many libraries' shelves. (Nov.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
This universally appealing book, written for the general reader, offers an excellent survey of recent Islamic scholarship. Esposito, editor of the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World, has gathered 16 leading scholars
A Muslim and non-Muslim
A from various disciplines and diverse national and religious traditions, to survey a wide range of subjects. Contributors treat, among other things, Muslim history, law, and society; art and architecture; and regional differences. Chapters on the "Globalization of Islam" and "Contemporary Islam" are particularly relevant to current events. Like most of the publisher's "histories," this book is meticulous and thorough, readable and comprehensive. An ideal one-volume source, especially for those on a small budget, it is recommended for academic and public libraries.
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