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The oxford history of islam

The Oxford History of Islam is a comprehensive four-volume set that offers an authoritative account of the world's second-largest religion. Edited by John L. Esposito, a leading scholar on Islam and international affairs, this lavishly illustrated book brings together sixteen prominent experts to explore the origins, history, and cultural development of Islam. With over 300 pictures, including 200 in full color, the book covers a wide range of topics, from the pre-Islamic Arab world to its impact on modern society. A must-read for both scholars and general readers, The Oxford History of Islam presents recent scholarship in an accessible style, accompanied by rich illustrations and bibliographies. The author highly recommends "The Oxford History of Islam" as an excellent introduction to the subject. This comprehensive book is beautifully illustrated and covers a wide range of topics in considerable depth, including culture, literature, theology, and science. The focus is on showcasing the admirable aspects of the Islamic world, much like Western Civilization books celebrate their own heritage. In contrast to many other books that view Islam as a problem to be solved, this book offers a positive approach. The author draws parallels between understanding Islam and appreciating America's achievements in art, literature, architecture, and science. They argue that one should look beyond the negative stereotypes surrounding Islam and instead focus on its greatness. The Oxford History of Islam is praised for its detailed and informative history of the religion, dispelling harmful stereotypes. The book is divided into chapters exploring various subjects related to Islam, including history, philosophy, law, and more. It's well-written and accessible, making it suitable for both beginners and those without a background in Islamic studies. The author notes that while Marshall Hodgson's "The Venture of Islam" series is the best overall history of the Islamic world, "The Oxford History of Islam" stands out for its accessibility and comprehensive coverage. It provides a good historical grounding beyond traditional biases and explains the challenges facing the modern Islamic world. Although not ideal for scholars, it offers an easier-to-read format with color photos, making it a valuable resource. The author also spent 700 pages reading this book and learned a significant amount about Islam. that this book is a collection of works by a diverse group of academics, with some providing clear and concise information while others appear clueless. As a result, the reader may feel both enlightened and guilty of orientalism. However, despite not reading the entire book, I found the chapters on theology, philosophy, and Shariah development to be interesting and informative. The author's approach provides valuable insights into the complexity of Islam. Additionally, the comprehensive treatment of the subject makes this a useful reference work. While some sections may seem dry, the overall impact is significant. One minor criticism is that certain periods, such as the origins of Islam, receive relatively brief treatment. Nevertheless, the book sheds new light on several long-held beliefs, including the position on representative art and Islamic science. The history of Mediaeval Islam reveals a complex and dynamic society that engaged with various fields of science, including physics, medicine, and philosophy. While often mistakenly viewed as solely transmitting Greek and Hindu concepts, Islamic scholars made significant contributions to algebra and achieved notable advancements in their medical tradition, despite being based on the discredited Four Humours doctrine. Interest in astronomy was also intense, with a strong emphasis on understanding celestial events and the orientation of the qibla. In contrast to the scientific revolution that occurred in Europe, Islam and India failed to reach a critical mass of knowledge and innovation. This is partly due to the influence of European colonialism and the complexities of Islamic governance. The Muslim world today is characterized by diverse forms of government, ranging from parliamentary democracies to autocracies. The book highlights the challenges faced by Muslims living in non-Islamic host cultures and the need for coexistence. It also explores the history of Islamic expansion and the role of taxation and missionary activity in shaping the empire's growth. The compendium offers a nuanced and complex understanding of Islam, one that counters simplistic and prejudicial rhetoric often heard in recent years. Despite some flaws, this collaborative effort between non-Muslims and Muslims provides a rich tapestry of Islamic perspectives, showcasing the religion's incredible diversity. The book's emphasis on trends, historic details, and thought and practice differences makes it a valuable resource for understanding Islam. However, as an orthodox believer, one can't help but notice some dated aspects, which actually add a unique perspective to the overall view. This book provides a comprehensive and authoritative account of the history and development of Islam, covering its faith, community, institutions, sciences, and arts from pre-Islamic times to the present day. With contributions from sixteen leading scholars, both Muslim and non-Muslim, it offers a wide-ranging exploration of Islamic civilization, including its impact on the world's major empires, its influence on modern politics and society, and its ongoing relevance in contemporary debates. While some reviewers found certain chapters overly detailed, most agree that the book is an indispensable resource for anyone seeking to understand Islam and its place in the world. With over 300 images, including full-color photographs, it is lavishly illustrated and presented in a readable style, making it accessible to both general readers and specialists. The Oxford History of Islam is a four-volume encyclopedia that brings together 16 leading scholars to explore the origins and development of Islam. The book offers a comprehensive account of Islamic history, covering topics such as its faith, community, institutions, sciences, and arts. With over 300 pictures, including many in full color, it provides an authoritative overview of the second largest religion in the world.

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