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Islam: A Short History [Modern Library Chronicles]



Synopsis

Islam haunts the popular Western imagination as an extreme faith that promotes authoritarian gov't., female oppression, civil war, & terrorism. Here is a short history that provides a vital corrective to this narrow view. The distillation of years of thinking & writing about Islam, Armstrong demonstrates that the world's fastest-growing faith is a much richer & more complex phenomenon than its modern fundamentalist strain might suggest. She begins with the flight of Muhammad & his family from Medina in the 7th cent. & the subsequent founding of the first mosques, then traces the development of Islam over the cent's. She concludes with an assessment of Islam today & its challenges. Islam is a model of authority, elegance, & economy. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ms. Armstrong shows herself to be a brilliant historian. This is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand this world religion and its adherents - particularly in view of the anti-Muslim sentiments that seem to stir in some quarters. It will be easier to understand the fundamental tenets of the religion and the people who follow it.

Highly recommended reading for anyone wanting to understand where this world religion is today and how it got there. Armstrong combines historical facts with an unbiased perspective to provide a rounded view.

a must read for any muslim or non-muslim to understand how human politics influenced the practices of a good message.

This book is an excellent account of the history of this religion. It is written with a real sympathy for the Islamic point of view and how that point of view evolved in relation to that of the West. It has a comprehensive timeline of significant Islamic events, and a good index of the main text. It is also well referenced. Charon

Great read

The book is a great history of the foundation of Islam, It is a hard read though partially due to the detail provided in the book and partially by the continuous changes to Islam since its inception as an oral guidance to a codified religion based on two separate views of who the successors of Muhammed were and which ones each group decides is important to follow

Certainly outlines the complex history of the rise of Islam, from Mohamed to the present. It's a gory and varied history, and sometimes there's a sense of attempt at justification for some of it. However, it does place current events in a much more understandable context, which was my primary reason for reading it.

What a important read to begin to understand the history & complexities of today's deeply held beliefs, conflicts, and commonalities of experiences! How far we are today from the original ideas & ideals. Not an easy read, but tremendously worth the effort.

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