

islam a short history by karen armstrong

Islam: A Short History by Karen Armstrong

islam a short history by karen armstrong offers readers an accessible yet profound journey through one of the world's major religions. Karen Armstrong, a renowned writer and former nun with a deep interest in comparative religion, brings clarity and empathy to the story of Islam's origins, development, and cultural impact. Her book serves as a valuable resource for anyone seeking to understand Islam beyond headlines and stereotypes.

Understanding the Scope of Islam: A Short History by Karen Armstrong

At its core, **Islam: A Short History** by Karen Armstrong is more than just a chronological recounting of events; it is an exploration of the spiritual, social, and political dimensions that have shaped Islam over the centuries. The book delves into the life of the Prophet Muhammad, the Quran's revelation, and the emergence of a global faith that today includes over a billion followers worldwide.

Armstrong's narrative is engaging because it situates Islam within its historical context—she explains the Arabian Peninsula's tribal culture before Islam and how Muhammad's message both challenged and unified the region's diverse peoples. This approach helps readers appreciate Islam as a living, evolving tradition rather than a static set of beliefs.

The Life of the Prophet Muhammad: Central to the Story

A significant portion of **Islam: A Short History** by Karen Armstrong is dedicated to the Prophet Muhammad's life, who is considered Islam's final prophet. Armstrong paints a compassionate portrait of Muhammad as a social reformer and spiritual leader whose teachings emphasized monotheism, social justice, and compassion.

She highlights key moments such as the initial revelations in the cave of Hira, the challenges Muhammad faced from Meccan elites, and the eventual establishment of the first Muslim community in Medina. Through these episodes, Armstrong illustrates how Muhammad's message resonated with many but also faced resistance, shaping the early dynamics of the Islamic faith.

Key Themes Explored in Islam: A Short History

Karen Armstrong's book is structured around several major themes that help readers grasp the complexities of Islamic history and theology.

Faith and Practice

Armstrong explains the Five Pillars of Islam—faith (Shahada), prayer (Salat), fasting (Sawm), charity (Zakat), and pilgrimage (Hajj)—not just as rituals but as foundational practices that weave the Muslim community together. She explores how these practices foster a sense of discipline, community, and spiritual connection.

Interpretation and Diversity

One of Armstrong's strengths is her nuanced discussion of Islamic jurisprudence and theology. She delves into how interpretations of the Quran and Hadith (sayings of the Prophet) have evolved, resulting in a rich diversity within Islam, including Sunni and Shia branches, as well as various schools of thought. This diversity challenges the misconception of Islam as monolithic.

Islam and the West

In *Islam: A Short History*, Armstrong also addresses the relationship between Islam and Western civilizations. She traces moments of cultural exchange during the Middle Ages, such as in science, philosophy, and art, while also acknowledging the tensions and misunderstandings that have arisen, especially in the modern era.

Why Karen Armstrong's Perspective Matters

Karen Armstrong's background as a scholar and her empathetic writing style bring an important perspective that is often missing in discussions about Islam. Rather than viewing Islam through a political or adversarial lens, she invites readers to appreciate its spiritual depth and historical complexity.

Her approach encourages a more informed and respectful dialogue about Islam, which is crucial in today's globalized world marked by cultural intersections and sometimes conflict. The book is suitable for students, educators, and anyone interested in religion, history, or cultural studies.

Accessible Yet Scholarly

While **Islam: A Short History** is concise, it doesn't sacrifice depth. Armstrong manages to pack historical detail, theological insights, and cultural context into a readable format, making it an ideal starting point for those new to Islamic studies. The book also references key sources and further reading for those who want to explore specific topics more deeply.

Using *Islam: A Short History* by Karen Armstrong in Learning and Teaching

For educators and learners, Armstrong's book can serve as an excellent foundational text. It can be used to:

- Introduce students to the historical development of Islam and its core beliefs.
- Foster understanding and empathy in interfaith dialogues.
- Provide context for current events involving Muslim communities worldwide.
- Encourage critical thinking about religious texts and interpretations.

By presenting Islam's history in a balanced and respectful way, Armstrong's work helps dismantle stereotypes and promotes intellectual curiosity.

Tips for Readers

To get the most out of **Islam: A Short History** by Karen Armstrong, readers might consider:

1. Taking notes on key historical figures and events to better follow the narrative.
2. Reflecting on how the spiritual teachings relate to broader human values.
3. Exploring additional writings by Armstrong, such as her work on other religions, to see comparative perspectives.
4. Engaging in discussions or joining book groups focused on world

religions to deepen understanding.

Broader Impact of the Book

Since its publication, **Islam: A Short History** by Karen Armstrong has been praised for its clarity and compassionate tone. Many readers say it changed their perception of Islam, helping them see it as a faith grounded in rich tradition and human experience rather than through the lens of conflict or political rhetoric.

The book also contributes to a growing genre of accessible religious histories that aim to bridge cultural divides and foster mutual respect. For Muslims and non-Muslims alike, Armstrong's work offers a common ground for learning and understanding.

Exploring **Islam: A Short History** by Karen Armstrong offers a valuable perspective on a faith that continues to shape the lives of millions. Through her storytelling, nuanced explanations, and thoughtful insights, Armstrong invites us to appreciate Islam's complexity and beauty, encouraging a world where knowledge replaces fear and curiosity overcomes prejudice.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'Islam: A Short History' by Karen Armstrong?

The book provides a concise overview of the history of Islam, covering its origins, development, and impact on the world from the time of Prophet Muhammad to the modern era.

How does Karen Armstrong portray the Prophet Muhammad in 'Islam: A Short History'?

Karen Armstrong portrays Prophet Muhammad as a transformative spiritual leader who united the Arabian Peninsula under the banner of Islam and laid the foundations for a major world religion.

Does 'Islam: A Short History' discuss the different sects within Islam?

Yes, the book explores the origins and distinctions between major sects such

as Sunni and Shia Islam, as well as their historical and theological differences.

What themes does Karen Armstrong emphasize in 'Islam: A Short History'?

Armstrong emphasizes themes such as compassion, social justice, and the complexities of Islamic civilization, challenging common stereotypes and highlighting Islam's diverse cultural heritage.

Is 'Islam: A Short History' suitable for readers new to Islamic history?

Yes, the book is written in an accessible style, making it suitable for readers who are new to the subject and seeking a clear and balanced introduction to Islamic history.

Additional Resources

Islam: A Short History by Karen Armstrong – An Analytical Review

islam a short history by karen armstrong presents a concise yet richly textured exploration of one of the world's major religions. In this compact volume, Armstrong offers readers a panoramic view of Islam's origins, evolution, and cultural significance, emphasizing historical context and humanizing the faith beyond common stereotypes. As a renowned scholar and former nun, Armstrong's narrative is both accessible and scholarly, making it an essential read for those seeking to understand Islam's intricate past and its role in the modern world.

Comprehensive Overview of Islam's Historical Roots

From the very outset, **islam a short history by karen armstrong** distinguishes itself by tracing Islam's genesis not just as a religious phenomenon but also as a socio-political movement. The book navigates through the 7th century Arabian Peninsula, where Prophet Muhammad's revelations began to reshape the religious landscape. Armstrong delves into the life of Muhammad with sensitivity, highlighting his role in unifying disparate tribes and establishing a community grounded in faith and justice.

Unlike many introductory texts that focus narrowly on doctrinal aspects, Armstrong contextualizes the Quran's emergence alongside pre-Islamic Arabian traditions and the influences of Judaism and Christianity. This comparative lens enriches the reader's understanding of Islam's theological and

historical tapestry, illustrating the faith's interconnectedness with its Abrahamic counterparts.

Balancing Faith and History

One of the book's defining features is Armstrong's balanced approach to the tension between faith and history. She respects Islamic beliefs while applying a critical historical methodology, avoiding both hagiography and reductionism. This nuanced treatment allows readers to appreciate the spiritual dimensions of Islam without neglecting the complexities of its human origins and political developments.

Her treatment of the early Caliphates, for instance, goes beyond simple succession narratives to explore how leadership struggles shaped Islamic jurisprudence and sectarian divisions. By doing so, Armstrong provides a framework to understand the Sunni-Shia split, a topic often oversimplified in popular discourse.

Exploring Islam's Expansion and Cultural Flourishing

Armstrong's narrative extends beyond the formative period to cover Islam's remarkable expansion across continents. She traces the spread of Islamic civilization into North Africa, Spain, Persia, and South Asia, emphasizing the religion's adaptability and the diversity of its cultural expressions. This geographic breadth is critical for readers to grasp the pluralistic nature of the Muslim world.

Achievements in Science, Philosophy, and Art

A notable strength of *Islam a Short History* by Karen Armstrong lies in its illumination of Islamic contributions to human knowledge. The Golden Age of Islam, characterized by advancements in mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and philosophy, is presented not merely as historical fact but as evidence of Islam's dynamic intellectual tradition.

Armstrong highlights figures such as Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina (Avicenna), and Al-Ghazali, whose works influenced both Eastern and Western thought. By spotlighting these scholars, the book challenges contemporary misconceptions that portray Islam as antithetical to scientific inquiry or cultural innovation.

Contemporary Challenges and Misconceptions

The final sections of Armstrong's book grapple with modern issues affecting the Muslim world, including colonialism, nationalism, and radicalism. Here, *Islam a short history* by Karen Armstrong bridges past and present, offering readers a historical lens through which to view contemporary conflicts and dialogues.

Addressing Islamophobia and Political Turmoil

Armstrong is careful to separate the faith from the political actions of some Muslim-majority states or extremist groups. Her analysis underscores how political, economic, and social factors have often influenced the global perception of Islam more than theology itself. This distinction is crucial for fostering informed discussions about Islamophobia and intercultural relations.

Islam in the West

The book also touches on the experiences of Muslim minorities in Western countries, exploring themes of identity, integration, and religious practice. Armstrong's compassionate approach provides insight into the challenges faced by Muslims navigating dual cultural landscapes, contributing to broader conversations about multiculturalism and religious freedom.

Strengths and Limitations of the Work

- **Strengths:** Armstrong's prose is clear and engaging, making complex historical narratives accessible to a general audience without sacrificing scholarly rigor. Her interdisciplinary approach—combining theology, history, and cultural studies—offers a well-rounded perspective. The book's brevity makes it a practical introduction for students and casual readers alike.
- **Limitations:** The concise nature of the book means some topics receive only cursory treatment. For example, detailed theological debates or the vast diversity within Islamic practice worldwide are not exhaustively covered. Readers seeking in-depth academic analysis may need to supplement this volume with more specialized texts.

Comparative Perspective: Islam A Short History vs. Other Introductory Texts

When compared to other introductory books on Islam, such as John L. Esposito's "Islam: The Straight Path" or Reza Aslan's "No god but God," Armstrong's work stands out for its literary elegance and emphasis on historical empathy. While Esposito offers a more detailed political and sociological analysis, and Aslan provides a passionate, narrative-driven account, Armstrong's balanced tone and historical breadth lend a unique voice to the discourse.

This diversity of perspectives enriches the field of Islamic studies, catering to different reader preferences—whether they seek academic depth, narrative engagement, or historical overview. Armstrong's contribution is particularly valuable for readers interested in understanding Islam's place in a global historical context without partisan bias.

Who Should Read Islam: A Short History?

This book is well-suited for:

- Students new to Islamic studies seeking a foundational understanding.
- General readers interested in religious history and interfaith dialogue.
- Educators looking for a concise resource to introduce Islam's historical development.
- Anyone aiming to challenge preconceived notions about Islam through a historically grounded narrative.

In a world where Islam is often misunderstood or misrepresented, Karen Armstrong's *Islam A Short History* by Karen Armstrong emerges as a timely and essential resource. It invites readers to appreciate the complexity of Islam's past and present, fostering a more informed and empathetic global discourse.

[Islam A Short History By Karen Armstrong](#)

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Islam Karen Armstrong, 2011-05-12 One of the world's foremost commentators on religious affairs on the history (and destiny) of the world's most misunderstood religion. In the public mind, Islam is a religion of extremes: it is the world's fastest

growing faith; more than three-quarters of the world's refugees are Islamic; it has produced government by authoritarian monarchies in Saudi Arabia and ultra-republicans in Iran. Whether we are reading about civil war in Algeria or Afghanistan, the struggle for the soul of Turkey, or political turmoil in Pakistan or Malaysia, the Islamic context permeates all these situations. Karen Armstrong's elegant and concise book traces how Islam grew from the other religions of the book, Judaism and Christianity; introduces us to the character of Muhammed; and demonstrates that for much of its history, the religion has been a force for enlightenment that promoted liberties for women and allowed the arts and sciences to flourish. ISLAM shows how this progressive legacy is today often set aside as the faith struggles to come to terms with the economic and political weakness of most of its believers and with the forces of modernity itself.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Islam Karen Armstrong, 2002-08-06 No religion in the modern world is as feared and misunderstood as Islam. It haunts the popular imagination as an extreme faith that promotes terrorism, authoritarian government, female oppression, and civil war. In a vital revision of this narrow view of Islam and a distillation of years of thinking and writing about the subject, Karen Armstrong's short history demonstrates that the world's fastest-growing faith is a much more complex phenomenon than its modern fundamentalist strain might suggest.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: God and Power Catherine Keller, 2005-05-26 Keller traces America's response to the current national, international, and religious situation to the deeply fraught legacy of Christian apocalypticism. After diving deeply into the multiple and conflicting political and religious meanings of the Book of Revelation, she proposes a counter-apocalypse, an anti-imperial political theology of love.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Kurze Geschichte der Imperien Hans-Heinrich Nolte, 2017-07-17 Grundkonzept dieses Buches ist eine fortlaufende Darstellung ausgewählter, meist historiographisch nicht umstrittener Imperien in Abgrenzung zu nationalstaatlichen Gegenbewegungen. Insgesamt werden 14 Imperien und/oder Hegemonialmächte skizziert: vom Römischen, Chinesischen, Osmanischen oder Habsburgischen Reich bis zu den Imperien Russlands und Groß-Britanniens. In die politikwissenschaftliche Debatte um eine angemessene Ordnung moderner Gesellschaften mischt sich der Autor dieses Buches als Historiker ein. Hans-Heinrich Nolt's Kurze Geschichte der Imperien wägt im historischen Vergleich die Vor- und Nachteile dieser Staatsform gegen ein System von Unionen ab. Ab wann gibt es Imperien, und wie veränderte sich ihre Struktur? Was leisten sie, und was können sie nicht? Die historische Übersicht legt nahe, dass Imperien besser in der Lage sind, weiträumige und sogar globale Probleme zu bearbeiten, dass aber Nationalstaaten es besser verstehen, Vorteile zu erkämpfen, konkrete Kontrolle zu sichern und Identifizierung zu ermöglichen. Das spricht für die Union von Nationalstaaten, da sie auf globale Probleme genauer reagieren können und doch Raum für nationale oder andere Identitätsbildungen lassen. Der universale Trend ist also nicht »from Empires to Nations«, wie man nach den Weltkriegern annahm oder gar »from Nations back to Empires«, wie manche hoffen, sondern »from Empires to Unions«.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Islam's Mandate: A Tribute to Jihad Mr. Pat, 2010-09-27 This work is based on the religion of Islam and the fundamental Muslims who live by Islamic Sharia law and associate themselves with Sunni Islam, or the Shi'a philosophy of the 6th imam. Islam's Mandate separates 80 % of the Muslim ummah (family) who live in Third World countries who cannot read or write from the radical world of Islam, as well as others who continue to associate themselves with the Muslim family, but have strayed from the teachings of Muhammad and are less than Islam's Muslim in their way of life. In the book, the author deals with 1500 year old beliefs of the fundamentalist, Islam's true Muslim. The questions asked and answered are, what is the true nature of Islam, and who are the real Islam Muslims in the mosques who stay hidden behind closed doors. Those who must defend against radical Islam must take them time to understand the Jihadist. It is time America pulls its head out of Muslim sand that is soaked with blood from 1500 years of Islamic aggression, and deals with the reality of what was once an oppressed tribal cult in the Arabian Desert, but is now a dominating, brutal, and repressive theocracy spreading to every

corner of this planet.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Islam Revealed Montell Jackson, 2003-06

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Understanding Islam Chris Hower, 2014-07-28

This book is designed to take people on the first steps in understanding Islam and the way that Muslims think and see the world. It grows out of extensive experience of teaching the course on which it is based.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: The Shari'a and Islamic Criminal Justice in Time of War and Peace M. Cherif Bassiouni, 2014 Shows that the shari'a and Islamic law are compatible with contemporary international human rights laws and norms, and appropriate for use in Muslim societies.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: The Study of Witchcraft Deborah Lipp, 2007-10-01

The Study of Witchcraft is a compendium for Wiccans who want to deepen their understanding of their traditions. The Study of Witchcraft reaches beyond Wicca, delving into topics as diverse as history, psychology, divination, and lucid dreaming, The Study of Witchcraft introduces the reader to these topics, discussing each in depth and offering a one of a kind course of study including recommended reading, offering readers increasingly, solitary witches a self study guide and a rich resource. The Study of Witchcraft includes information for all sorts of Wiccans/ traditional, eclectic, radical, groups, and solitary. Wide ranging topics also include Western occultism, myth and folklore, meditation, astrology, the Burning Times, history, herbalism, and much more. Deborah Lipp opens the book with a discussion of the past 40 years of Wiccan history and talks about the diverse people who call themselves Wiccans. Then, throughout the study guide portion, she offers information tailored to different types of Wiccans. Essentially, The Study of Witchcraft is a veritable master's degree in Wicca in book form! * Written for the needs of the modern wiccan, who learns primarily by self study * Written by a noted and respected author, whose work is already used in study groups.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Global Radical Islamist Insurgency: AL

QAEDA AND ISLAMIC STATE NETWORKS FOCUS Dave Dilegge and Robert J. Bunker, 2016-02-11 This anthology—the second of an initial two volume set—specifically covers Small Wars Journal writings on Al Qaeda and the Islamic State spanning the years 2012-2014. This set is meant to contribute to U.S. security debates focusing on radical Islamist global insurgency by collecting diverse SWJ essays into more easily accessible formats. Small Wars Journal has long been a leader in insurgency and counterinsurgency research and scholarship with an emphasis on practical applications and policy outcomes in furtherance of U.S. global and allied nation strategic interests. The site is able to lay claim to supporting the writings of many COIN (counterinsurgency) practitioners. This includes Dr. David Kilcullen whose early work dating from late 2004 “Countering Global Insurgency” helped to lay much of the conceptual basis focusing on this threat and as a result greatly helped to facilitate the writings that were later incorporated into these Al Qaeda and Islamic State focused anthologies. This volume is composed of sixty-six chapters divided into sections on a) radical Islamist OPFORs (opposition forces) and context and b) U.S.—allied policy and counter radical Islamist strategies. The work also contains a preface by Matt Begert, a foreword by Dr. Daveed Gartenstein-Ross and Bridget Moreng, an introduction, a postscript, an extensive notes section, and editor and contributor biographies on sixty-four individuals as well as an acronyms listing and an initial ‘About SWJ’ and foundation section.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: THE GUIDE TO ANSWERING ISLAM Daniel

Janosik, 2019-01-26 The average Christian knows somewhat how dangerous radical Islam is because of the regular media coverage of beheadings of Christians, Jews, and even young little children, not to mention Muslims with which they disagree. However, the average Christian does not know their true beliefs, just how many there are, to the extent they will go to carry out these beliefs. Daily we find Islamic commentators on the TV and radio, offering up misleading information, quoting certain portions of the Quran while leaving other parts out. When considering Islamic beliefs, other Islamic writings must be considered, like the Hadith or Sunnah, and the Shariah, or canon law. While Islam, in general, does not support radical Islam, the vast majority do support radical beliefs. For example,

beheadings, stoning for adultery or homosexuality, suicide bombings, turning the world into an Islamic state, and far too many other heinous things. THE GUIDE TO ANSWERING ISLAM provides Christians with an overview of Islamic terminology. The reader will learn about Muhammad's calling, the history of the Quran, how Islam expanded, the death of Muhammad and the splinter groups that followed. In addition, the three sources of their teaching, six pillars of belief, five pillars of Islam, the twelfth Imam, and much more will be discussed. While there are several books on Islam and radical Islam, this will be the first that will prepare its readers to communicate effectively with Muslims in an effort toward sharing biblical truths. THE GUIDE TO ISLAM will be an effective evangelism tool. In addition, each chapter will end with review questions, helping the reader recall the main points of the chapter. Therefore, it can be studied alone or in a church Bible study setting. THE GUIDE TO ANSWERING ISLAM has the contents constructed in a way that will greatly serve the Christian Church. There are many recent books written by Christians about Islam, and there are many books written recently about radical Islam. However, none of these recent books attempts to do what has been done, which is to give an adequate portrayal of Islam, critiqued by history and Christian doctrine, and then culminating in an extensive evaluation of the rise of Radical Islam from a Christian's perspective.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Islamic Law: A Very Short Introduction

Mashood A. Baderin, 2021-02-25 Very Short Introductions: Brilliant, Sharp, Inspiring Islamic law is one of the major legal systems in the world today, yet it is often misunderstood, particularly in the West. It is applicable in different forms as part of state law in countries across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, and also has a strong influence on Muslim communities throughout the Western world. This Very Short Introduction provides an authoritative perspective on the evolution and nature of Islamic law. Mashood A. Baderin considers its theory, covering the history and nature of Islamic jurisprudence; its scope, covering Family Law, Inheritance Law, Financial Law, Penal Law, and International Law; and, finally, its practice. He takes into account both classical and modern scholarly perspectives in examining the various facets of Islamic law, to provide an overview of this key legal system. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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islam a short history by karen armstrong: Non-Western Educational Traditions Timothy G. Reagan, 2004-09-22 This text provides a brief yet comprehensive overview of a number of non-Western approaches to educational thought and practice. Its premise is that understanding the ways that other people educate their children--as well as what counts for them as education--may help us think more clearly about some of our own assumptions and values, and to become more open to alternative viewpoints about important educational matters. The value of this informative, mind-opening text for preservice and in-service teacher education courses is enhanced by Questions

for Discussion and Reflection and Recommended Further Readings included in each chapter. New in the Third Edition: *Chapter 2, Conceptualizing Culture: 'I, We, and The Other,' is new to this edition. It is a response to feedback about the problems inherent in our general discourse about culture, and in addition provides an example of a culture that is near to us but nevertheless alien-the culture of the Deaf-World. *Chapter 9-which deals with Islam and traditional Muslim education-has been substantially revised. *The subtitle of the Third Edition has been changed to Indigenous Approaches to Educational Thought and Practice, reflecting not so much a change in the emphases found in the book, but rather, a recognition of the growing scholarly interest in indigenous peoples, their languages, cultures, and histories. *Various points throughout the text have been expanded and clarified, and chapters have been updated as needed.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: *Islamic Finance and Law* Maha-Hanaan Balala, 2010-10-30 Islamic commercial and financial practice has not experienced the trial-and-error style of development that has characterised the development of the common law in the English-speaking world. Many of the principles, rules and practices prevalent in the Islamic law of contract, commerce, finance and property remain the same as those outlined by the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad, and expounded by scholars of jurisprudence as far back as the 13th century, despite the advancement in time and sophistication of commercial interaction. Hanaan Balala here demonstrates how, in order to bridge the gap between the principles outlined by the Quran and the Prophet in the 7th century and commercial practice in the 21st century, Islamic finance jurisdictions need to open themselves to learning from the experience (including the mistakes) of the English common law. 'Islamic Finance and Law: Theory and Practice in a Globalized World' provides an analysis of the fundamental principles underlying the Islamic law of contract and commercial practice in comparison with their equivalents in common law in the English-speaking world. It seeks to draw parallels (and differences where appropriate) to facilitate the growth and development of Islamic commercial and financial law globally.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: *Are Muslims Distinctive?* M. Steven Fish, 2011-02-09 *Are Muslims Distinctive?* represents the first major scientific effort to assess how Muslims and non-Muslims differ--and do not differ--in the contemporary world. Using rigorous methods and data drawn from around the globe, M. Steven Fish reveals that in some areas Muslims and non-Muslims differ less than is commonly imagined. Muslims are not inclined to favor the fusion of religious and political authority or especially prone to mass political violence. Yet there are differences: Gender inequality is more severe among Muslims, Muslims are unusually averse to homosexuality and other controversial behaviors, and democracy is rare in the Muslim world. Other areas of divergence bear the marks of a Muslim advantage: Homicide rates and class-based inequities are less severe among Muslims than non-Muslims. Fish's findings have vital implications for human welfare, interfaith understanding, and international relations.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 20:1 Jerald F. Dirks, Ahrar Ahmad, Asma Barlas, Ataul Huq Pramanik, Ermion Sinanovic, *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS)*, established in 1984, is a quarterly, double blind peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary journal, published by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), and distributed worldwide. The journal showcases a wide variety of scholarly research on all facets of Islam and the Muslim world including subjects such as anthropology, history, philosophy and metaphysics, politics, psychology, religious law, and traditional Islam.

islam a short history by karen armstrong: *The World in Books* Kenneth C. Davis, 2024-10-08 From ancient times to the present day, *The World in Books* offers a wide-ranging historical education through pleasure reading-and a fantastic introduction to some of the most thought-provoking, profound, and interesting nonfiction works of all time. From Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* to bell hooks's *All About Love*, as well as such recent classics as Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *We Should All Be Feminists*, Davis's guide suggests a world of nonfiction books and explains just why they're so historically meaningful and culturally relevant today--

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Presence and the Political Farhang Rajaee, 2021-01-21 This book deals with a concern of how humanity performs toward itself and how it performs within the public realm, and where it must be in relation with others. Public life is not solely about politics but also the political, i.e., intellectual, moral, economic, religious, and collective habits—including fashions and amusements, artefacts, histories, and legacies. This book argues that man *raison d'être* in worldly life is to have a civil presence and create civilization. It contends that what makes it possible is the coming together of “presence, ethos, and theatre” and their working in concert. The first half of this book elaborates on the nuances of these three pillars, and the second half offers three examples of civilizations that have succeeded to achieve this within what it claims to be three major worldviews that he calls “divine-immanence, the divine-transcendence, and human-immanence.”

islam a short history by karen armstrong: Unsettling Colonial Modernity in Islamicate Contexts Kara Adbolmaleki, Roxana Akhbari, Siavash Saffari, 2017-05-11 By focusing on colonial histories and legacies, this edited volume breaks new ground in studying modernity in Islamicate contexts. From a range of disciplinary perspectives, the authors probe ‘colonial modernity’ as a condition whose introduction into Islamicate contexts was facilitated historically by European encroachment into South Asia, the Middle East, and Northern Africa. They also analyze the various modes through which, in Europe itself, and in North America by extension, people from Islamicate contexts have been, and continue to be, otherized in the constitution and advancement of the project of modernity. The book further brings to light a multiplicity of social, political, cultural, and aesthetic modes of resistance aimed at subverting and unsettling colonial modernity in both Muslim-majority and diasporic contexts.

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