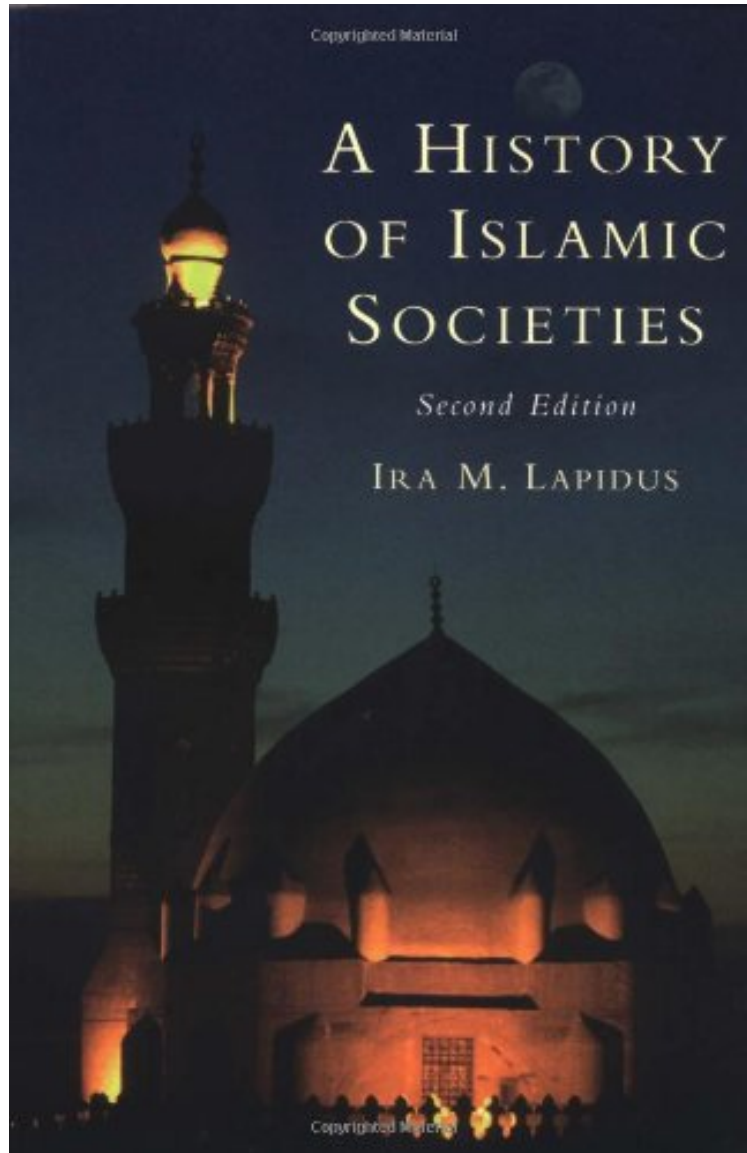


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## A History of Islamic Societies

*Ira M. Lapidus*

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**Ira M. Lapidus : A History of Islamic Societies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of Islamic Societies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is truly a magnum opus that will last for times to come.By Hamza al-AmrikiThe best book I have ever read on Islamic history / sociology. This book is extremely comprehensive and a dense read, but I highly recommend it to anybody interested in Islam and/or its history. This book covers every

region and time period, even the pre-Islamic world. I found it extremely insightful with the latest research. I also liked that it has many other contributors other than Dr Lapidus of Berkeley. This book is truly a magnum opus that will last for times to come.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great overview  
By James Lapidus' book is a great, broad overview of the history of Islamic societies. I've yet to read it in its entirety, due to the fact it's massive, but I've used quite a few sections for papers and for lecturing. I only have two complaints: 1) Lapidus focuses primarily on the modern era, though he certainly gives an overview of early Islamic history 2) Lapidus does not talk very much about Islam in sub-Saharan Africa. He focuses primarily on the Middle East and Asia, while talking a decent amount about North Africa and the Islamic diaspora. However, sub-Saharan African nations that are overwhelmingly Muslim, such as Senegal, are only briefly talked about. The primary reason I purchased this book was to use for an Independent Study Project on German-Turkish relations, and found it useful to an extent for that purpose. However, for anything relating to sub-Saharan African Islamic history, one should look elsewhere.<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. Islamic societies throughout the world in focus.  
By Charles F Cutts  
In researching modern Islamic societies Lapidus's *History* provides a valuable background and guide to a subject which has, in the past, received scant attention in western society. The only omission is any mention of an Australian muslim society which began with the importation of Afghan cameleers who played an important part in opening up outback Australia. In Australia today muslims are to be found throughout the country through an active multicultural immigration policy and from the acceptance of African refugees. This book is a valued addition to my Islamic library.

Long considered a classic, *A History of Islamic Societies* is now that much more useful a reference for general readers and scholars alike. Widely praised for its balanced and comprehensive account, Ira Lapidus' work has been fully revised in its coverage of each country and region of the Muslim world through 2001. It incorporates the origins and evolution of Islamic societies and brings into focus the historical processes that gave shape to the manifold varieties of contemporary Islam. The concluding chapters survey the growing influence of the Islamist movements within national states and in their transnational or global dimensions, including the Islamic revival, Islamist politics and terrorism. An updated discussion of the roles of women in Islamic societies is added, with new sections about Afghanistan and Muslims in Europe, America, and the Philippines. Ira M. Lapidus is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California at Berkeley. His many books and articles include *Islam, Politics and Social Movements* (University of California Press, 1988) and *Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 1984).

From *Library Journal*  
Respected scholar Lapidus here emphasizes what he argues to be the distinctive features of Islamic societies—the developments of communal, religious, and political institutions. The book's first section deals with the Islamic transformation of traditional Middle Eastern societies; the second, the diffusion of Middle Eastern Islam to other regions; and the last, the disruptions of Muslim societies with the collapse of the Islamic empire and European domination. The book covers Africa and Central and Southern Asia as well as the Middle East. Recommended for all research and general library collections. J. Anthony Gardner, California State Univ., Northridge  
Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This book is a major undertaking and deserves to be saluted as an outstanding achievement. Professor Lapidus' *A History of Islamic Societies* belongs to a rare breed of works which appear only once every two decades." *Third World Quarterly* "This is a great deal more than a textbook. It is a product of learning, intellect and style of an extremely high order." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* "The value of *A History of Islamic Societies* lies in its sheer comprehensiveness. In one volume a vast amount of material is synthesized and presented in a clear and effective style. There is nothing else like it. For the first time the worldwide history of Islamic societies is made accessible to the interested reader." *The Journal of Asian Studies*  
About the Author  
Ira M. Lapidus was Professor of Islamic history at the University of California at Berkeley.