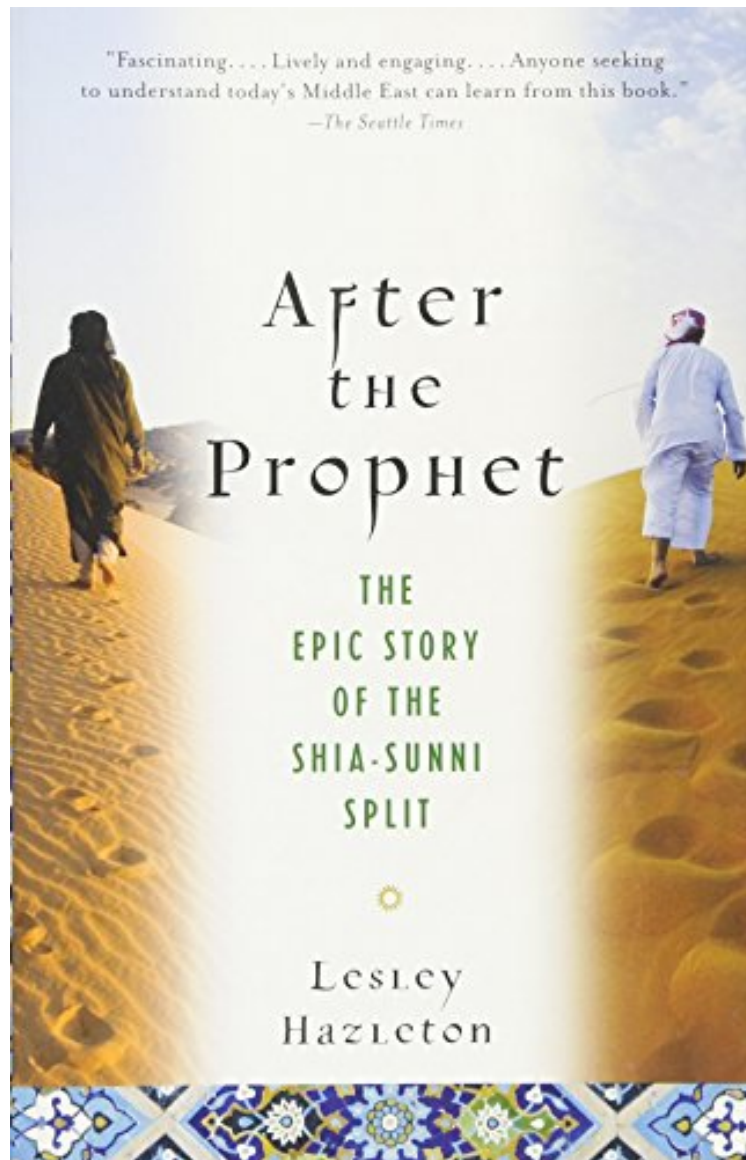


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After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-Sunni Split in Islam

Lesley Hazleton

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Lesley Hazleton : After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-Sunni Split in Islam before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-Sunni Split in Islam:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Engrossing and highly relevant for the 21st century By Metallurgist This is a highly engrossing book that is highly relevant to today's world. The author is a journalist and as

such writes in a highly readable style. The book reads more like a novel, rather than a textbook, but nonetheless covers the subject based on numerous sources, some of which go back to the 9th century. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of Islam and to all those interesting in understanding the roots of today's Muslim fanaticism. This book details the death of the prophet Mohammed and his initial successors, particularly that of his cousin and adopted son Ali. Ali, initially passed over for the leadership of Islam, eventually became its leader. However, the struggle for the leadership of Islam and Ali's assassination set the stage for the eventual struggle between the Shia (followers of Ali) and the Sunni who believed that the leadership of Islam should not be through Mohammed's kin. Ali's son Hussein (also Mohammed's grandson because Ali married one of Mohammed's daughters) was likewise killed by the Sunni leadership, creating the basis for Shia martyrdom. The events surrounding the deaths of Ali and Hussein and the nature of how and why they died are highly relevant to today's world as they created the basis both the Sunni fanaticism of groups like Al Qaeda, and Shia fanaticism. The author is clear in explaining these connections, making this book important for understanding the modern world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Everyone interested in what is going on with Muslims should read this book! By WSV1975 I hope this is required reading for every American diplomat and official and military officer with some degree of responsibility for dealing with Muslims. I have read a lot about Muslims and Middle Eastern governments and yet I never really had the whole story on this Shia vs Sunni issue. Hazleton's book gives us all the details of history and lets us in on how the Middle East and Islam was formed and why the history of that region is so alive today! This is one of those history books that is actually a page-turner. I could not put it down. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Background on the Causes of the Sunni-Shia Split By W. Chambers Very well-written and overall historically accurate description of the Sunni-Shia split. Reads like a novel and doesn't take sides. One of the best and most readable books I've read on this topic.

In this gripping narrative history, Lesley Hazleton tells the tragic story at the heart of the ongoing rivalry between the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam, a rift that dominates the news now more than ever. Even as Muhammad lay dying, the battle over who would take control of the new Islamic nation had begun, beginning a succession crisis marked by power grabs, assassination, political intrigue, and passionate faith. Soon Islam was embroiled in civil war, pitting its founder's controversial wife Aisha against his son-in-law Ali, and shattering Muhammad's ideal of unity. Combining meticulous research with compelling storytelling, *After the Prophet* explores the volatile intersection of religion and politics, psychology and culture, and history and current events. It is an indispensable guide to the depth and power of the Shia-Sunni split.

.com Book Description Narrative history at its most compelling, *After the Prophet* relates the dramatic tragic story at the heart of the ongoing rivalry between Shia and Sunni Islam. Even as Muhammad lay dying, the battle over his successor had begun. Pitting the family of his favorite wife, the controversial Aisha, against supporters of his son-in-law, the philosopher-warrior Ali, the struggle would reach its breaking point fifty years later in Iraq, when soldiers of the first Sunni dynasty massacred seventy-two warriors led by Muhammad's grandson Hussein at Karbala. Hussein's agonizing ordeal at Karbala was soon to become the Passion story at the core of Shia Islam. Hazleton's vivid, gripping prose provides extraordinary insight into the origins of the world's most volatile blend of politics and religion. Balancing past and present, she shows how these seventh-century events are as alive in Middle Eastern hearts and minds today as though they had just happened, shaping modern headlines from Iran's Islamic Revolution to the civil war in Iraq. *After the Prophet* is narrative nonfiction at its finest, and an emotional and political revelation for Western readers.