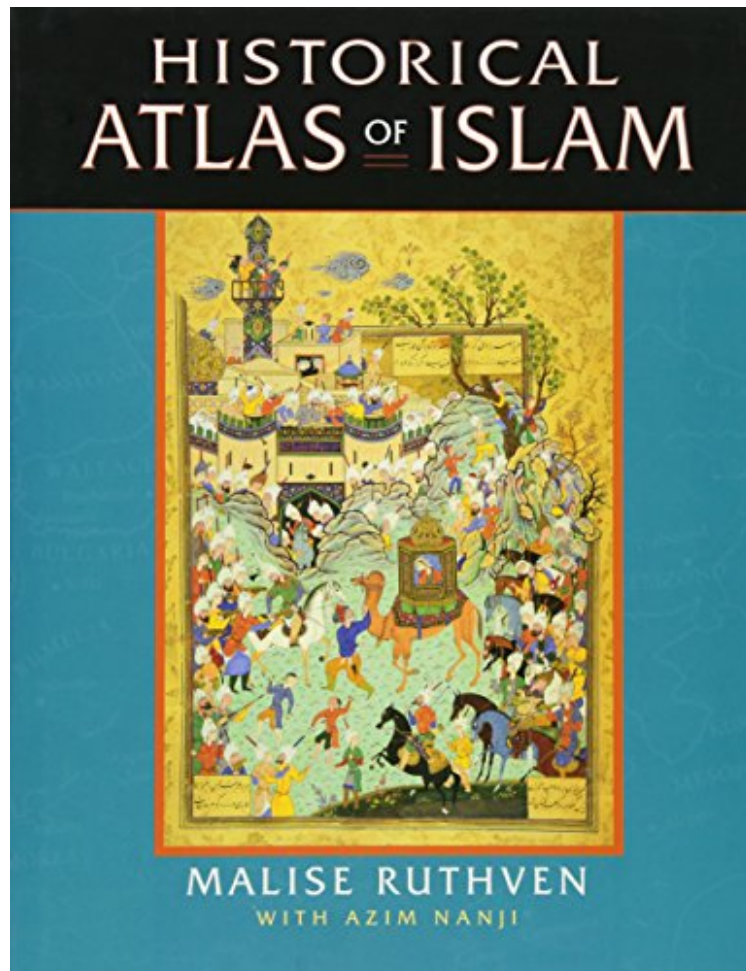


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Historical Atlas of Islam

Malise Ruthven

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Malise Ruthven : Historical Atlas of Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Historical Atlas of Islam:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Careless errors throw reliability into questionBy James W. WilliamsThis is an important resource, but a couple of flaws jumped out at me early on that throw the accuracy of the whole work into doubt. The first was a simple grammatical error/typo -- it's for its. That struck me as slipshod for a publication of this caliber. However, soon after, on p. 8, I found the dates given for the first caliph's reign wrong: "(r. 624-632)" which should read (r. 632-634). An error of that kind would seriously mislead a reader reasonably relying on a publication from this source as authoritative. If such errors are present, it immediately throws the reliability of the entire work into question. I find that very disappointing, because I bought this as a reference to fill in my own, major gaps in knowledge. Now I find I'll have to do more checking.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. very good, but I have two better onesBy Bruce D. WilnerThis excellent volume devotes too much time (IMHO) to recent

developmental trends, particularly demographic ones, skimming over the historical and cultural aspects of Islam and its inherent beauty. Try your hand at "Historical Atlas of the Islamic World" by Nicolle--which offers a very friendly format, typically in the form of two-to-four-page spreads (very nearly a la Dorling Kindersley)--and "Islam: An Illustrated History" by Jordan--which is about as balanced a treatment as one could ask for (O.K., O.K.: "for which one could ask"). And for page after page of stunning photographic beauty, try Kazuyoshi Nomachi's "Mecca the Blessed, Medina the Radiant" and Michaud's "L'Orient dans un Miroir." 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An AWAIR PickBy Audrey Shabbas Among the great civilizations of the world, Islam remains an enigma to Western readers. Now, in a beautifully illustrated historical atlas, noted scholar of religion Malise Ruthven recounts the fascinating and important history of the Islamic world. From the birth of the prophet Muhammad to the independence of post-Soviet Muslim states in Central Asia, this accessible and informative atlas explains the historical evolution of Islamic societies. Short essays cover a wide variety of themes, including the central roles played by sharia (divine law) and fiqh (jurisprudence), philosophy, arts and architecture, the Muslim city, trade, commerce and manufacturing, marriage and family life, tribal distributions, kinship and dynastic power, ritual and devotional practices, Sufism, modernist and reformist trends, the European domination of the Islamic world, the rise of the modern national state, oil exports and arms imports, and Muslim populations in non-Muslim countries, including the United States. Lucid and inviting full-color maps chronicle the changing internal and external boundaries of the Islamic world, showing the principal trade routes through which goods, customs, and ideas spread. Rich in narrative and visual detail, this timely atlas is an indispensable resource to anyone interested in world history and religion. Teachers/Librarians: this is suitable for 9th grade to adult.

Among the great civilizations of the world, Islam remains an enigma to Western readers. Now, in a beautifully illustrated historical atlas, noted scholar of religion Malise Ruthven recounts the fascinating and important history of the Islamic world. From the birth of the prophet Muhammed to the independence of post-Soviet Muslim states in Central Asia, this accessible and informative atlas explains the historical evolution of Islamic societies. Short essays cover a wide variety of themes, including the central roles played by sharia (divine law) and fiqh (jurisprudence); philosophy; arts and architecture; the Muslim city; trade, commerce, and manufacturing; marriage and family life; tribal distributions; kinship and dynastic power; ritual and devotional practices; Sufism; modernist and reformist trends; the European domination of the Islamic world; the rise of the modern national state; oil exports and arms imports; and Muslim populations in non-Muslim countries, including the United States. Lucid and inviting full-color maps chronicle the changing internal and external boundaries of the Islamic world, showing the principal trade routes through which goods, ideas, and customs spread. Ruthven traces the impact of various Islamic dynasties in art and architecture and shows the distribution of sects and religious minorities, the structure of Islamic cities, and the distribution of resources. Among the book's valuable contributions is the incorporation of the often neglected geographical and environmental factors, from the Fertile Crescent to the North African desert, that have helped shape Islamic history. Rich in narrative and visual detail that illuminates the story of Islamic civilization, this timely atlas is an indispensable resource to anyone interested in world history and religion.

From Publishers Weekly Islam dominates the news these days be it a story on Shia uprisings in Iraq, banning headscarves in French schools or prosecuting extremists involved in the Sept. 11 attacks yet few Americans are familiar with the religion's complex history. Author Ruthven, along with Muslim scholar Nanji, present a rich but accessible history of Islam, now the religion of one-fifth of the world's population, from Mohammed to bin Laden. Brief, digestible essays create an illuminating picture of the pivotal moments and movements, like the colonization of the Muslim world and recent rise of Islamist terrorists, which are complemented by numerous color illustrations mapping the religion's spread from ancient Arabia to its outer limits in today's Africa and Southeast Asia. While this is not an infallible resource (the authors misidentify the location of Djennes enormous mud mosque; it is in Mali, not Niger), it is certainly a most helpful one. Color maps and photographs throughout. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Islam dominates the news these days--be it a story on Shia uprisings in Iraq, banning headscarves in French schools or prosecuting extremists involved in the Sept. 11 attacks--yet few Americans are familiar with the religion's complex history. Author Ruthven, along with Muslim scholar Nanji, present a rich but accessible history of Islam, now the religion of one-fifth of the world's population, from Mohammed to bin Laden. Brief, digestible essays create an illuminating picture of the pivotal moments and movements, like the colonization of the Muslim world and the recent rise of the Islamist terrorists, which are complemented by numerous color illustrations mapping the religion's spread from ancient Arabia to its outer limits in today's Africa and Southeast Asia. (Publishers Weekly 2004-05-03) The social, historical and geographical overview presented in this atlas will reward the attentive and/or inquisitive reader with a wealth of insight that undermines the image of Islam propagated by sensation-seeking, often hostile media... The Historical Atlas of Islam--whose extensive maps and diagrams take the Mecca-Medina axis as their focus--reminds us that, for a millennium, the Islamic world stood at the apex of human scientific, spiritual and cultural achievement. (Fred A. Reed Montreal Gazette 2004-09-

04)[Historical Atlas of Islam] is a work of learning and labour. Both, the texts and the accompanying maps, help one to understand how history unfolded itself in the far-flung reaches of the Islamic World from Africa to China, across the Balkans, Central, South-East Asia...It is an invaluable and indispensable work. (A. G. Noorani Frontline 2005-01-14)The Historical Atlas of Islam is more than an atlas in the usual sense of the term. Besides an abundance of maps and other visuals, it provides an overview of the history of Islam, regionally organized, plus essays on numerous subjects. Recognizing the post-9/11 interest in Islam, the authors even take on the subject of Islam and terrorism, arguing with good reason that the war on terrorism seems to have an anti-Muslim bias. (Christian Century 2004-12-14)Historical Atlas of Islam is an excellent reference work that ranges far and wide. It covers such topics as Muslim languages and ethnic groups, the spread of Islam, the rise and fall of the Ottoman empire, Muslim minorities in China, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinians, Islamic arts and the state of human rights in Muslim societies. (Sheldon Kirshner Canadian Jewish News 2004-12-16)Maps and eye-catching illustrations accompany clear articles on everything from the early Sufi orders to Islam in the British, Russian and Dutch empires. History blends with social insights and religious coverage in an all-embracing visual display. (Diane C. Donovan Midwest Book 2005-02-01)This generously illustrated volume presents a basic but comprehensive survey of the history of Islam in the world from Late Antiquity through the present war in Iraq. Nearly one hundred clear and well-designed color maps are supplemented by abundant color photographs...The essays are suited to nonspecialists, undergraduates and the general public, making the book ideal as a supplement for a survey course in Islamic history or reference work. The tone of the text is scholarly, sympathetic, and nondogmatic...The comprehensive geographic coverage effectively brings out the rich diversity of the Muslim umma...The atlas is remarkable for its thoroughness and breadth, all the more so given its economical length. (Brian A. Catlos Religious Studies 2007-04-01)About the AuthorMalise Ruthven is a former editor with the BBC Arabic Service and World Service in London and is the author of Islam in the World and Islam: A Very Short Introduction.Azim Nanji is Professor and Director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies and visiting professor at Stanford University.