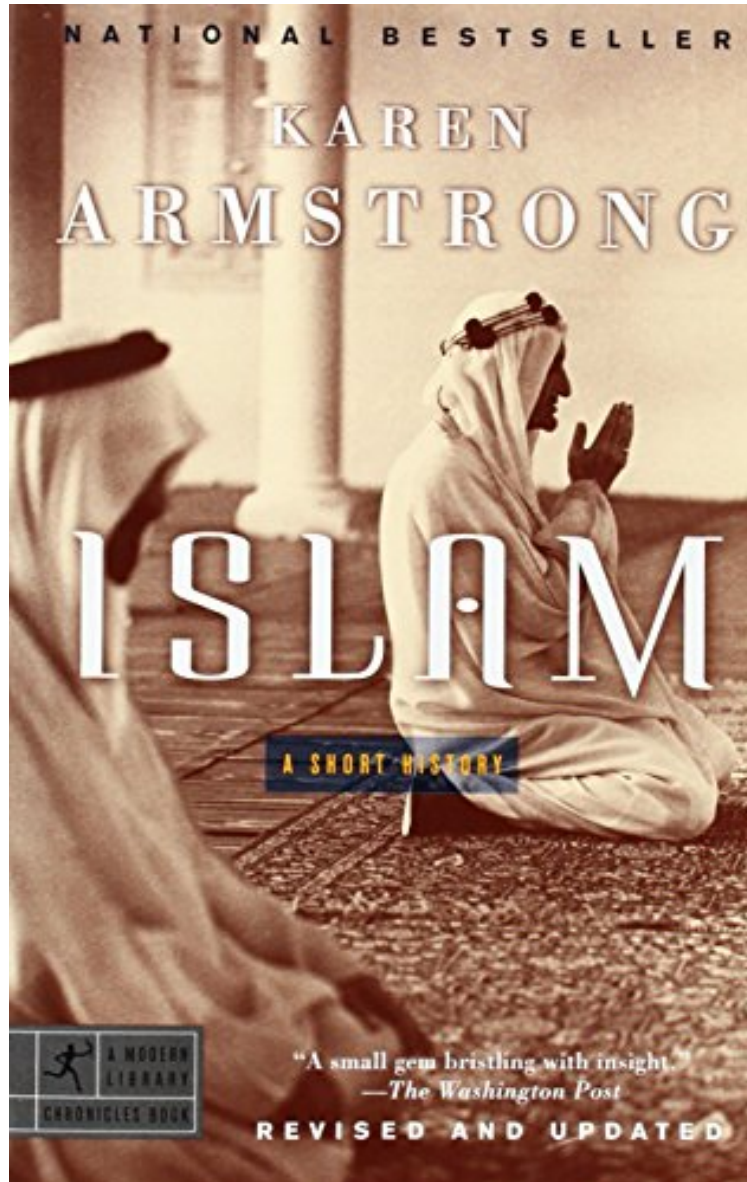


(Mobile book) Islam: A Short History (Modern Library Chronicles)

Islam: A Short History (Modern Library Chronicles)

Karen Armstrong

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#44013 in Books Modern Library 2002-08-06 2002-08-06Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.99 x .59 x 5.16l, .95 #File Name: 081296618X272 pagesGreat product! | File size: 35.Mb

Karen Armstrong : Islam: A Short History (Modern Library Chronicles) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam: A Short History (Modern Library Chronicles):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great history.By Floretta O'brienMs. 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. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. ... understand how human politics influenced the practices of a good message. By MMA must read for any muslim or non-muslim to understand how human politics influenced the practices of a good message. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. History of an important religion By Charon 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

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.

.com The picture of Islam as a violent, backward, and insular tradition should be laid to rest, says Karen Armstrong, bestselling author of *Muhammad and A History of God*. Delving deep into Islamic history, Armstrong sketches the arc of a story that begins with the stirring of revelation in an Arab businessman named Muhammad. His concern with the poor who were being left behind in the blush of his society's new prosperity sets the tone for the tale of a culture that values community as a manifestation of God. Muhammad's ideas catch fire, quickly blossoming into a political empire. As the empire expands and the once fractured Arabs subdue and overtake the vast Persian domain, the story of a community becomes a panoramic drama. With great dexterity, Armstrong narrates the Sunni-Shi'ite schism, the rise of Persian influence, the clashes with Western crusaders and Mongolian conquerors, and the spiritual explorations that traced the route to God. Armstrong brings us through the debacle of European colonialism right up to the present day, putting Islamic fundamentalism into context as part of a worldwide phenomenon. *Islam: A Short History*, like Bruce Lawrence's *Shattering the Myth* and Mark Huband's *Warriors of the Prophet*, introduces us to a faith that beckons like a minaret to those who dare to venture beyond the headlines. --Brian Bruya From Publishers Weekly Readers seeking a quick but thoughtful introduction to Islam will want to peruse Armstrong's latest offering. In her hallmark stylish and accessible prose, the author of *A History of God* takes readers from the sixth-century days of the Prophet Muhammad to the present. Armstrong writes about the revelations Muhammad received, and explains that the Qur'an earned its name (which means recitation) because most of Muhammad's followers were illiterate and learned his teachings not from reading them but hearing them proclaimed aloud. Throughout the book, Armstrong traces what she sees as Islam's emphasis on right living (? la Judaism) over right belief (? la Christianity). Armstrong is at her most passionate when discussing Islam in the modern world. She explains antagonisms between Iraqi Muslims and Syrian Muslims, and discusses the devastating consequences of modernization on the Islamic world. Unlike Europe, which modernized gradually over centuries, the Islamic world had modernity thrust upon it in an exploitative manner. The Islamic countries, Armstrong argues, have been "reduced to a dependent bloc by the European powers." Armstrong also rehearses some basics about Islamic fundamentalism in a section that will be familiar to anyone who has read her recent study, *The Battle for God*. A useful time line and a guide to the "Key Figures in the History of Islam" complete this strong, brisk survey of 1,500 years of Islamic history. (Aug.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Within the Muslim world, history and politics are inseparable vehicles of religious expression and cultural identity. A proper understanding of Islamic history is therefore essential if we are ever to resolve the major issues we face in the Middle East. In her newest book, best-selling author Armstrong (*Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*; *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*) does an admirable job of presenting Islamic history from an objective, unbiased point of view. This book (part of a new series of small-format hardcover originals from Modern Library) is a distillation of years of writing and thinking about Islam. The history of conflicts with the West from 1750 to the present, the modern Muslim State, fundamentalism, and the Muslim minority are some of the themes addressed. A listing of key figures in Islam is included. Short but detailed, this excellent synopsis of the topic is recommended for all libraries. -D Michael W. Ellis, Ellenville P.L., NY Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.