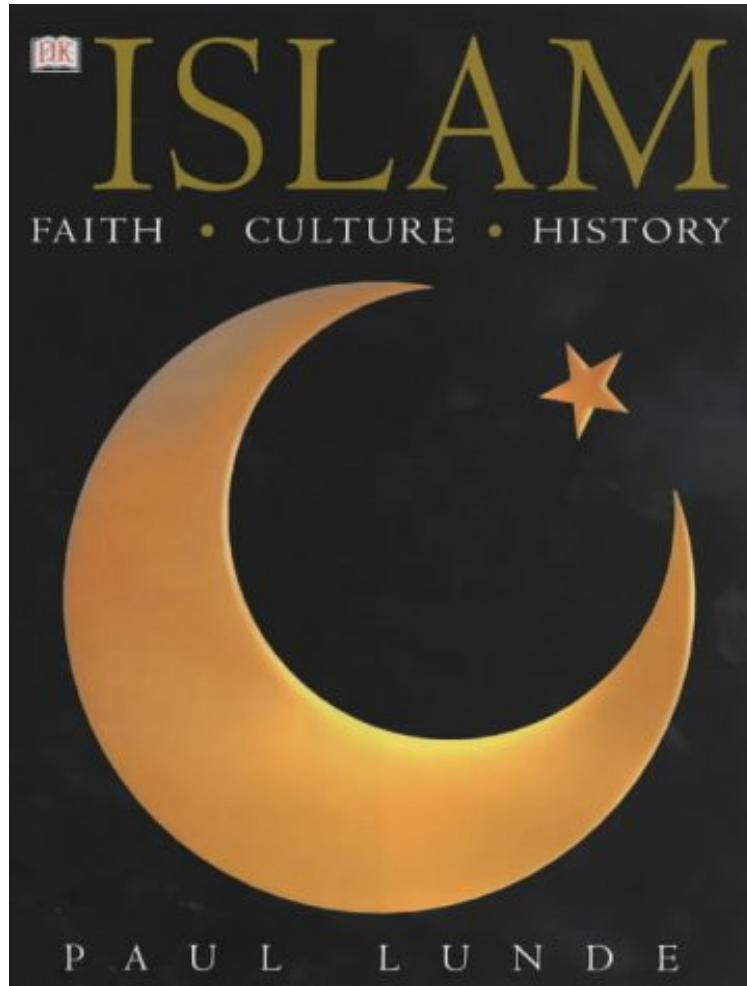


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## Islam: Faith, Culture, History

*Paul Lunde*

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**Paul Lunde : Islam: Faith, Culture, History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam: Faith, Culture, History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!!!By MoHolic, but concise book on history and culture of Islam. Must for the home library.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An AWAIR Pick!!!By Audrey ShabbasThis succinct volume is one of the most satisfying of the many introductory books on Islam. It is rich in facts, which are thoroughly set in the context of Muslim and western viewpoints. The graphic presentation uses abundant, carefully captioned photographs and historical art reproductions, topical sidebars and 60 pages of country statistics and 15 pages of chronology! This book is done in Dorling-Kindersley's signature style, designed to serve the contemporary reader-in-a-hurry.It works well for author Lunde, himself a scholar of East-West history, versed in classical Arabic texts as well as in those of the West. He presents facts as a means to understanding of history's flow, and his passion for the broad view is matched by his compassion for the newcomer to the subject. You will not fine here any dull

litany of unpronounceable names. Always aware of Islamic history's countless connections with the West, Lunde presents the subject with its full due of vitality and relevance. Chapters cover the present-day relationships among Islamic and western cultures, the history of the faith, and empire-by-empire history of Islamic politics, arts and sciences, and the varied experiences of modernity. Teachers/Librarians: 7th grade to adult - Social Studies. If you have room for only one reference work on Islam, make it this one!! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Concise, yet powerful By Tarek Mak. This is a most excellent introduction/resource on Islam. It is superbly written; Lunde is never boring, always informative and treats matters with due respect and a deep understanding. The book has an attractive page layout, with images that are relevant and increase the readers understanding and insight into Islam and Muslims. I am amazed at how much information has been packed into this small volume. The book is divided into two main parts; the first is a brief yet very deep overview of Islam. It covers topics such as Islamic beliefs, practices and the Qur'an. A quick but concentrated tour of Islamic history (till modern times) and Muslims contribution to art and science. Issues of modernity are also treated with wisdom and sensitivity. The second part is a reference of Muslim countries (countries with Muslim majorities). The use of graphical layout and icons allows for a vast amount of information to be presented. Information on education, media, defence, economics, resources, politics, currency, important dates. It has Flags, maps, weakness and strengths ... and the list goes on.

This comprehensive study traces the emergence of Islam in the Middle East in the early 7th century and its subsequent impact on world history through its rapid spread across Africa, Europe, Asia and beyond. It explores the fundamental beliefs which lie at the heart of the Muslim world.

From Publishers Weekly With over 300 appealing photographs accompanied by Lunde's text, this glossy paperback is an adequate repository of information for those who know nothing about Islam. One standout feature is the nation-by-nation profiles of 38 majority-Muslim countries, where readers glean staggering statistics we learn, for example, that in Gambia there is only one doctor for every 20,000 people. These profiles alone make the book a valuable primer on the Islamic world. However, as a cross between a coffee-table book and an encyclopedic reference, its overview is too fast-paced and brief. Working knowledge of the realities of Islamic life is lacking; American and European Muslims are hardly discussed; the review of modern Islamic history omits numerous CIA interventions to topple popular Islamic leaders and downplays the long-term effects of colonization. Discussions of the treatment of women and the concept of jihad offer inaccurate or partial information (for example, in the section on jihad, Lunde provides the oversimplified statement that "the duty of the believer is to spread the faith"). The text is at its best when Lunde reveals a few refreshing gems and insights on Islam, noting, for example, that "under Islamic law a woman's possessions were unalienably her own (unlike in the Christian West)." The entire book, rather than a few passages, should have had such candor. As with most DK offerings, however, the editorial content is only half of the equation here, and the gorgeous full-color layout does its usual magic in compensating for textual superficialities. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. An incisive, accessible and timely introduction to the world of Islam and its impact on modern geo-politics. Includes details on Islamic history, social and cultural values, traditions and its significance as a major world religion. About the Author Paul Lunde is a widely published scholar and writer whose career has been dedicated to furthering an international understanding of Islam, its peoples and culture.