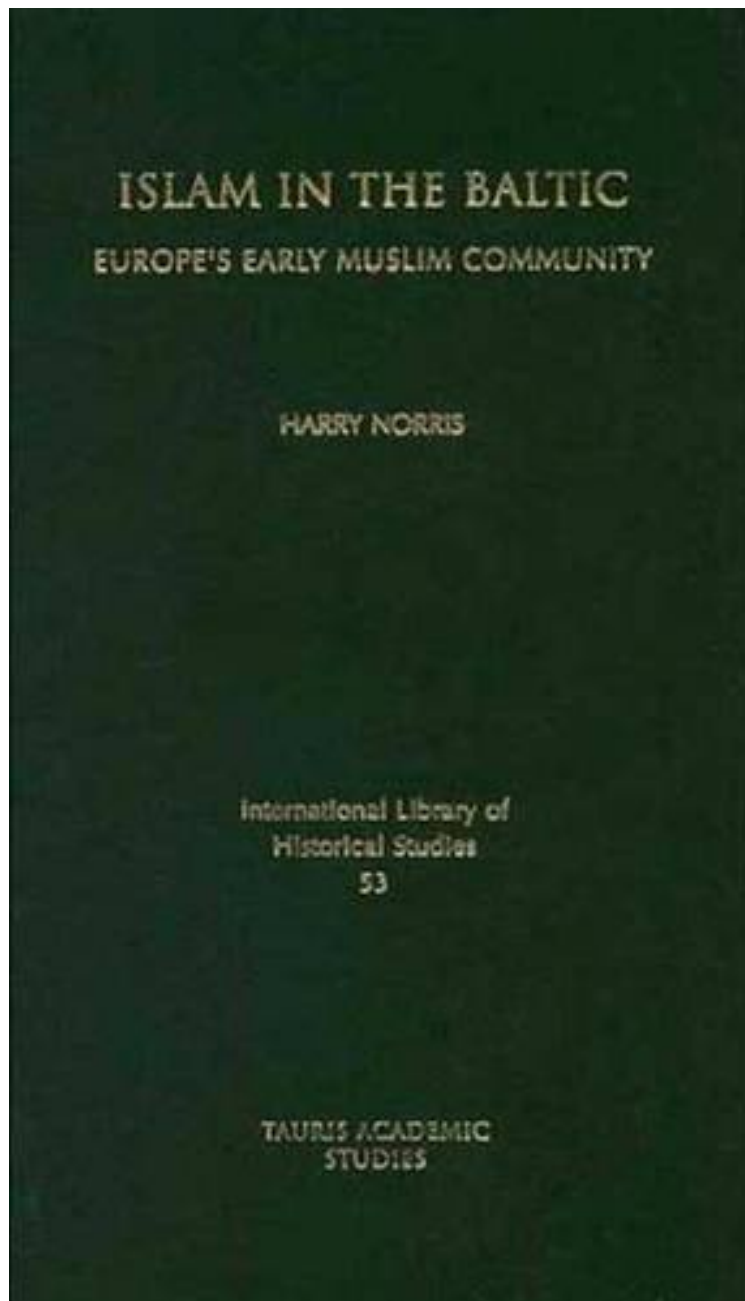


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## **Islam in the Baltic: Europe's Early Muslim Community (International Library of Historical Studies)**

*Harry Norris*

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**Harry Norris : Islam in the Baltic: Europe's Early Muslim Community (International Library of Historical Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam in the Baltic: Europe's Early Muslim Community (International Library of Historical Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reading is a chore, but the information is surprising. By lyndonbrecht This book is intriguing only because of the subject. The text is pretty much a chore to read, and the maps are not very useful. The fact that there were Muslims in the Baltic region is contrary to the prevailing view that Islam is a matter of very recent immigration and is an intrusive presence in Europe. There have been Muslims in the region since the 14th century when there was a population of Muslim Tatars in what was then Poland-Lithuania (which was for a time, the largest European state). Apparently some descendants are still there. I cannot recommend this book except for the information, which for some readers may make the chore of slogging through it worthwhile.

Arriving in Europe in the 14th century, the Qipchaq Tatars are the longest surviving Muslim people in Europe. They form the historical core of the Muslim community in the Baltic States, Belarus and Poland where Muslims are few in number compared with those in other parts of the European Union and in Russia. In the first historical study of this important community, Harry Norris investigates the earliest contacts between the Baltic peoples and the world of Islam. He examines the trade routes of the Vikings and the early Slavs and Balts who had commercial relations with Arab merchants, trading in amber, furs, Middle Eastern silks and other luxury goods. Norris surveys the Qipchaq Tatars' history, their Muslim faith, their culture, their literature and their life as indigenous Europeans in New Europe today. He draws contrasts and similarities between other Muslim communities in Europe, including the diverse immigrant Muslim groups in the Nordic countries that border the Baltic Sea: Finland, Sweden and Denmark. This book is of importance to those studying the rich cultural heritage of minority groups of European Muslims and their position in Europe today, as well as those interested in the study of migration.

""it is of undoubted value to scholars of Islamic Studies, comparative religion and literature, and European and Islamic history, politics and cultural studies, as well as being of potential interest to the general reader...The book's great strength lies in the fact that Norris approaches the material both as an expert in Islamic culture, history and literature, and in the culture, history and literature of Northern Europe and the Baltic states, a fact which not only means that he is able to provide a balanced overview, but allows for a number of fascinating insights into the religious and cultural interaction between ""East"" and ""West."" -- Dr Helen Blatherwich, Centre of Islamic Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London ""With his usual thoroughness and the wealth of knowledge the author deals with the history of Tartar settlements, their culture and beliefs, their relationship with the native Christian population, their contacts with the Crimea and Turkey. The book...will be of considerable interest for historians, as well as for Oriental and Slavic scholars dealing with language and cultural interrelationships."" -- Father Alexander Nadson, The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library About the Author Harry Norris is Professor Emeritus of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of London. Before this he was Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at SOAS and an associate Fellow at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London.