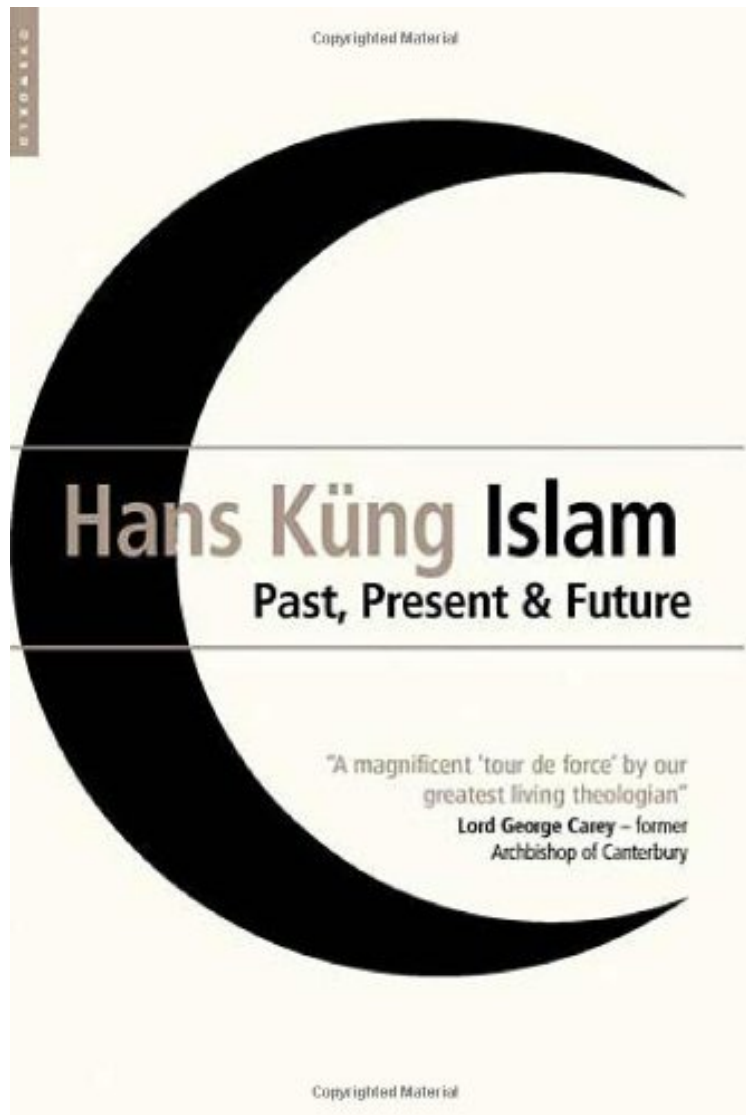


[Library ebook] Islam: Past, Present and Future

Islam: Past, Present and Future

Hans Kng

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Hans Kng : Islam: Past, Present and Future before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam: Past, Present and Future:

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Short on Modern History, Passable pre-70's By Tom DOK for history and partial comparison of "Abrahamic" religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam). The most comprehensive, say pre-1980, Islamic history available in English. Kung mentions events post 9/11 but not much detail from the 70's on, and the history has a charitable, optimistic "peace" bias. Kung works to avoid controversy and the difficult issues. This is a well documented, interesting tome but the author's spin contaminates it. It is not an "objective" history. I took three

stars off for the failure to deal with the hard issues and modern history in any substantive detail, particularly the rise of fundamentalism under the influence of people such as Sayyid Qutb (executed in 1966) and the near dismissal of the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood. This is billed as "Past, Present and Future." It is about the past, it was not about the present even when it was published, and based upon what's happened since it was published, Kung's vision for the future has no practical scenario. Kung does not explore the hard issues within Islam, he fleetingly alludes to them as the difference between the "Mecca period" and the "Medina period." He equates the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism to the Protestant reformation. Understand Kung is looking for a way to peacefully co-exist in a world of mutual respect among religions and people, so he largely ignores the divisive issues that exist even among Muslims, much less between Muslims and non-Muslims. His ending words are: "No peace among the nations without peace among the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions. No dialogue between the religions without global ethical standards. No survival of our globe without a global ethic, a world ethic, supported by both the religious and the non-religious." 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. get for a reading challenge
By Lucian A. Sperta
A complete and concise piece of work, over 700 pages of pure history of the rise of the Islamic Empire and faith....
1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Daniel E Vargas
An excellent theological book.

For more than two decades the world religions have been a central topic for Hans Kng. In books which have inspired millions throughout human society, he has pioneered work towards a new dialogue between cultures. In this extraordinarily comprehensive book, he gives an in-depth account of Islam, the second largest world religion after Christianity. Describing paradigm shifts in its 1400-year history, outlining the various currents and surveying the positions of Islam on the urgent questions of the day, few present-day theologians could have written such a complete analysis. As in Kng's earlier studies on Judaism (1991) and Christianity (1994), he focuses on the central principles in the faith and seeks to show the parallels between the monotheistic world religions. With detailed analysis of the contents and meaning of the Koran, he challenges the notion that people of different religions are intrinsically opposed. Indeed, in the introduction of this thought-provoking and powerful book, he explicitly presents its message as being the antithesis of that of the influential Clash of Civilisations (1993), by Samuel Huntington. Instead of presenting Islam as the new enemy in a post Cold War world, and regarding the current international situation as a call for further rearmament and hatred, he suggests that a "peace between religions" is a prerequisite for "peace between nations". Informative, opinionated and exceedingly well-constructed, this is a masterpiece by the foremost scholar in his field. In a world where understanding of global politics requires a knowledge of Islam, there is no better place to start. Dr. Kng is President of the Foundation for a Global Ethic (Weltethos). From 1960 until his retirement in 1996, he was Professor of Ecumenical Theology and Director of the Institute for Ecumenical Research at the University of Tbingen. He is a scholar of theology and philosophy and a prolific writer. He was recently named among Foreign Affairs One Hundred Public Intellectuals

From Publishers Weekly
Prominent Christian theologian Kng completes his trilogy on the world's three monotheistic faiths with this lengthy analysis of Islam's 1,400-year history. As in his previous volumes, he speaks against the clash of civilizations and for peace through inter-religious dialogue. He sees each faith as having had major paradigm shifts that have moved it forward, and, in fact, praises Islam for advancing the Arab people quite rapidly, in some cases much faster than similar periods for Christianity. Nevertheless, he claims the Muslim world has neglected to move to its next paradigm due to various failures: arrogant ulama (religious scholars), greed among the wealthy, and the lack of health care and education. Equally critical of Christianity and Judaism, Kng is a lone, profound voice searching for greater understanding through asking difficult questions. He is intuitively confident that Muslims are ready to revitalize their religion, hungry for such rethinking through new Qur'anic interpretations that are already underway. Although the thousand-page book is overblown and could use some stringent editing, it contains insightful ideas and worthwhile commentary. Those intimidated by the lengthy volume may prefer to peruse the fascinating maps and tables throughout, which neatly and graphically summarize the book's major points. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A magnificent 'tour de force' by our greatest living theologian" -- Lord George Carey - former Archbishop of Canterbury, 1991-2002
"Kung proves himself a masterful historian." -- Muslim World Book, February 28, 2008
A magnificent 'tour de force' by our greatest living theologian. -- Lord George Carey - former Archbishop of Canterbury, 1991-2002
An honest, balanced approach to Islam that endeavours to build bridges of dialogue between religions and races. This huge 1,000-page-book will give students, academics and general readers a very comprehensive study of its subject. -- The Bookseller, 3/1/07
From the Publisher
For more than two decades the world religions have been a central topic for Hans Kng. In books, which have inspired millions throughout human society, he has pioneered work towards a new dialogue between cultures. In this extraordinary comprehensive book, he gives an in-depth account of Islam, the second largest world religion after Christianity. Describing paradigm shifts in its 1400-year history, outlining the various currents and surveying the positions of Islam on the urgent questions of the day, few present-day theologians could have written such a complete

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