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John L. Esposito

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John L. Esposito : Islam: The Straight Path (Oxford paperbacks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam: The Straight Path (Oxford paperbacks):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Straight talk about IslamBy HHEsposito's book first appeared in 1988. This fifth, updated edition was published in April 2016. It is an excellent book, well-informed and sympathetic, which has been widely used as an introductory text. Indeed, in some ways it has come to occupy the niche filled in its day by H. A. R. Gibb's remarkably durable "Mohammedanism" of 1949. New to this edition are discussion questions at the end of each chapter; Chapter 2, "The Muslim Community in History," now includes extensive coverage of Islam in the West; Chapter 5, "The Resurgence of Religion in Politics," which incorporates coverage of the unexpected and stunning Arab Spring; and Chapter 6, "The Struggle for Islam in the Twenty-First Century," now discusses a selection of major religious scholars, intellectuals, and popular preachers who address critical questions and issues of Islamic reform. There are also revisions and updates to the map of the Muslim world, the chronological timeline, and the bibliography. "Islam: The Straight Path", therefore, has more than retained its usefulness. Unfortunately, however, it has been produced in a slightly smaller format, and with a markedly smaller typeface, than its paperback predecessor, and is consequently far less agreeable to read. This was a regrettable false economy on the part of Oxford University Press.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Simply and amazing book. Gives people a look behind all the ...By Bimmerx53Simply and amazing book. Gives people a look behind all the propaganda in the news, and gives a thorough as well as 99% accurate teaching of the TRUE Islam.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great

presentationBy Mary Ann VanceVery interesting. Great presentation

The world's second largest religion, Islam is also one of the fastest growing and most politically potent, yet its nature remains obscure to many westerners despite its common theological and historical roots with Judaism and Christianity. Combining the finest Western scholarship with an insider's understanding of the Muslim world, this book provides a brief, yet comprehensive, introduction to the faith, belief, and practice of Islam from the seventh century to the contemporary resurgence. Drawing on his extensive experience traveling, researching, and teaching in the Muslim world, John L. Esposito records the struggle of Muslims to define and follow their way of life through the development of Islamic law, theology, mysticism, and philosophy, bringing his discussion to life with excerpts from a wide range of original sources. Written for a broad audience, *Islam: The Straight Path* addresses the powerful and pervasive role of Islam in modern Muslim life and the issues that Islam faces, avoiding simplified political generalizations about the contemporary scene. Completely up-to-date, this book is indispensable to understanding the Islamic world during this turbulent and important period in its history.

From Publishers WeeklyEsposito (*Islam in Asia* , etc.), professor of international studies at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., refreshingly eschews the more sensationalist aspects of contemporary Islam for a detailed survey of early Islamic history and a thorough review of the intricacies of Islamic law and ritual, and of the development of the various and often conflicting interpretations of these traditions in the modern world. The book corrects many popular misconceptions (e.g., that Friday is the "Muslim Sabbath" or that women are enjoined by the Quran to wear the veil) and is especially good on delineating the beliefs and practices of the Shii Muslims. Unfortunately, in his attempt to be factual and dispassionate, the author tends to present the material in a dry, toneless manner. And the proliferation of Arabic terms, inadequately defined in the glossary, will confuse those readers unfamiliar with the religion. Despite these shortcomings, this is a helpful guide to the history and current status of the world's fastest-growing religion. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalEsposito's purpose was to "write an introductory volume on Islam . . . to enable readers to understand . . . what Muslims believe and practice," and although readers might occasionally wonder whether to regard Islam as a straight textbook, it succeeds admirably as a primer for the general reading public. Esposito begins with a straightforward discussion of the forces that brought Muhammad to spiritual and sociopolitical prominence. He then moves on to a thorough exposition and evaluation of Islamic theology, which he ties solidly to Islamic social theory. Albeit a bit wordy, Islam is eminently readable and will greatly aid readers in understanding the current conflicts in the Middle East. Highly recommended. David P. Snider, Casa Grande P.L., Ariz.Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorJohn L. Esposito is Professor of Religion and Director of the Center for International Studies at the College of the Holy Cross. He has been appointed William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Humanities at the College of William and Mary and is president of the Middle East Studies Association. His many publications include *Islam in Asia* (Oxford, 1987), *Islam and Politics, Second Edition* (1987), *Voices of Resurgent Islam* (Oxford, 1983), *Islam in Transition* (Oxford, 1982), and *Women in Muslim Family Law* (1982).