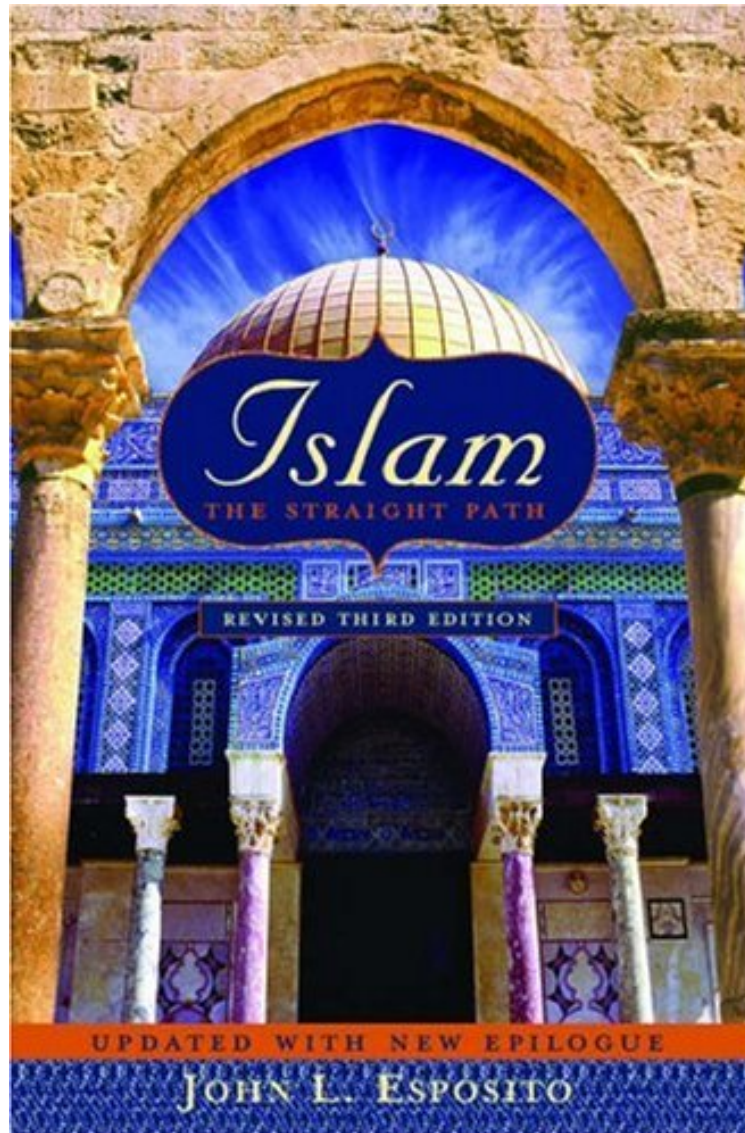


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Islam: The Straight Path Updated with New Epilogue, 3rd edition

John L. Esposito

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John L. Esposito : Islam: The Straight Path Updated with New Epilogue, 3rd edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam: The Straight Path Updated with New Epilogue, 3rd edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not exactly what I was looking for.By EthanI was looking for a history of Islam in the detached view from a neutral third party and had this book recommended to me. I think the tendency of the writing is to avoid tough questions entirely and make soft answers for others. It covered good

fundamentals but seemed less a scholarly interpretation of Islam than an explanation of Islam's point of view. Not bad perse, but not what I was looking for. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Historical, Unbiased Overview By A.M. Morning A good introduction to Islam and its history. The author explains the origins and core beliefs of the religion. The development of Islam is presented within its social and cultural context (which is how I think most religions should be studied but is especially important in Islam since it is incorporated into every aspect of a Muslim's life), and shows how it both influenced the cultures it appeared in and was influenced by them. I didn't notice any bias one way or the other. The names of significant figures, leaders and groups are listed and it's a little hard to keep straight. The author had a tendency to repeat certain phrases and sentences from earlier sections almost word for word, which I found annoying but probably wouldn't bother most readers :) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful analysis from a writer who does not practice this ... By D.H. Choudhury A wonderful analysis from a writer who does not practice this religion. This is a great reading for people of all beliefs.

This updated version of *Islam: The Straight Path* includes a new Epilogue by John Esposito in which he addresses the impact 9/11 and its aftermath have had on both the Muslim and non-Muslim world, discussing Islam's relationship to democracy and modernity and focusing more sharply on the origins and growth of extremism and terrorism in the name of Islam. This exceptionally successful survey text introduces the faith, belief, and practice of Islam from its earliest origins up to its contemporary resurgence. Esposito, an internationally renowned expert on Islam, traces the development of this dynamic faith and its impact on world history and politics, discussing the formation of Islamic belief and practice and chronicling the struggle of Muslims to define and adhere to their Islamic way of life. Lucidly written and expansive in scope, *Islam: The Straight Path* provides keen insight into one of the world's least understood religions and is ideally suited for use in courses on Islam, comparative religions, and Middle Eastern history and culture.

Praise for previous editions: "The answer to every teacher's prayer for an informed and balanced introductory book. Elegantly written, beautifully synthesized, and helpful." --Leila Fawaz, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy "A splendid introduction to Islam. Esposito paints over a wide canvas in depicting the emergence of the Muslim community, the varieties of Muslim beliefs and practices, the tensions between tradition and modernity, and the Islamic resurgence of recent years... A timely gem." --Philip Khoury, Massachusetts Institute of Technology "The best and most obvious choice for courses on Islam, Islamic history, and Middle Eastern history. Well-written and accessible to undergraduates. The best English language text on Islam." --Robert S. Kramer, St. Norbert College "One of the best introductory texts on Islam and the Islamic world. I think the book's greatest strength is that it's written in a way that is comprehensible and easily accessible without compromising substance." --Ibrahim Kalim, College of the Holy Cross About the Author John L. Esposito is at Georgetown University.