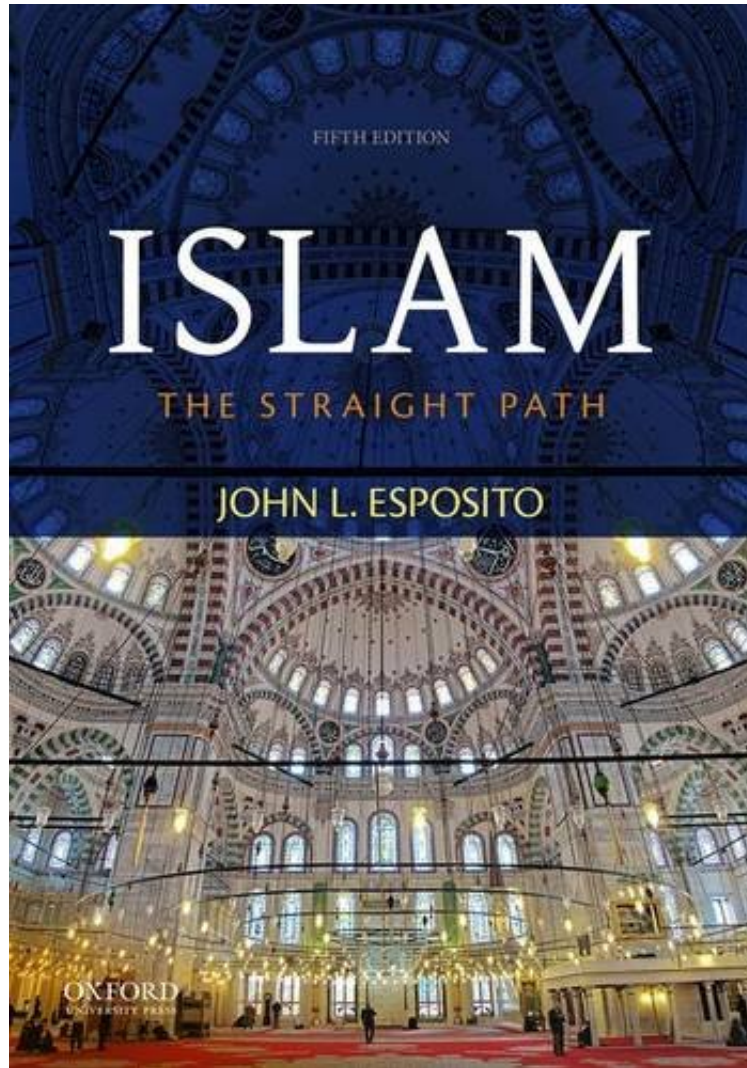


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## Islam: The Straight Path

*John L. Esposito*

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

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 Bimmerx53 Simply 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 presentation By Mary Ann Vance Very interesting. Great presentation

This exceptionally successful survey text introduces the teachings and practice of Islam from its earliest origins up to its contemporary practice. John L. Esposito, an internationally renowned expert on Islam, traces the development of Islam and its impact on world history and politics. Lucidly written and expansive in scope, *Islam: The Straight Path*, Fifth Edition, provides keen insight into one of the world's least understood religions. It is ideally suited for use in courses on Islam, world religions, comparative religions, and Middle East history and culture. A FREE 6-month subscription to Oxford Islamic Studies Online ([www.oxfordislamicstudies.com](http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com)), edited by John L. Esposito, is included with the purchase of every new copy of this text.

From *Library Journal* Esposito, a well-respected scholar and prolific writer on things Islamic, is the founding director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University and, most recently, general editor of the four-volume *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World* (LJ 3/15/95). Here we have the third edition of a book first published in 1988 (LJ 9/15/88) outlining Muslim origins, history, doctrine, and culture—generally in a Middle Eastern context. This edition, which contains a useful bibliography and thorough index, incorporates recent developments in the Middle East and adds material on Pakistan and on the growth of Islam in America. Free of any evident anti-Muslim or anti-Christian bias, Esposito's scholarly prose is both straightforward and highly readable, with technical terms always clearly defined. Nevertheless, this is a work for serious students. Recommended for academic libraries and public libraries with substantial collections in religion. James F. DeRoche, Alexandria, VA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This is the answer to every teacher's prayer for an informed and balanced introductory book. It is elegantly written, beautifully synthesized, and helpful." --Leila Fawaz, Tufts University "Islam: The Straight Path is a remarkable testament to the author's breadth of scholarship and descriptive and explanatory economy." --Peter Matthews Wright, The Colorado College "Esposito's work in modern Islam gives him a rich perspective for introducing readers to the main modern strands of reform and revivalism, moderation, and extremism that shape the Islamic worldview in the twenty-first century." --Seth Ward, University of Wyoming "This is an excellent book, exhibiting the depth and the breadth of Esposito's knowledge about Islam and the Middle East. Professor Esposito is one of the most respected authorities on these subjects in our time." --G. Michael Stathis, Southern Utah University About the Author John L. Esposito is University Professor of Religion and International Affairs, Professor of Islamic Studies, Founding Director of the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and Director of *The Bridge: Protecting Pluralism--Ending Islamophobia* at Georgetown University. Editor-in-Chief of *Oxford Islamic Studies Online* and *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam*, he is the author of *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*, Second Edition (2011), *The Future of Islam* (2010), and *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam* (2002), and coauthor of *Islam and Democracy after the Arab Spring* (2015), all published by Oxford University Press.