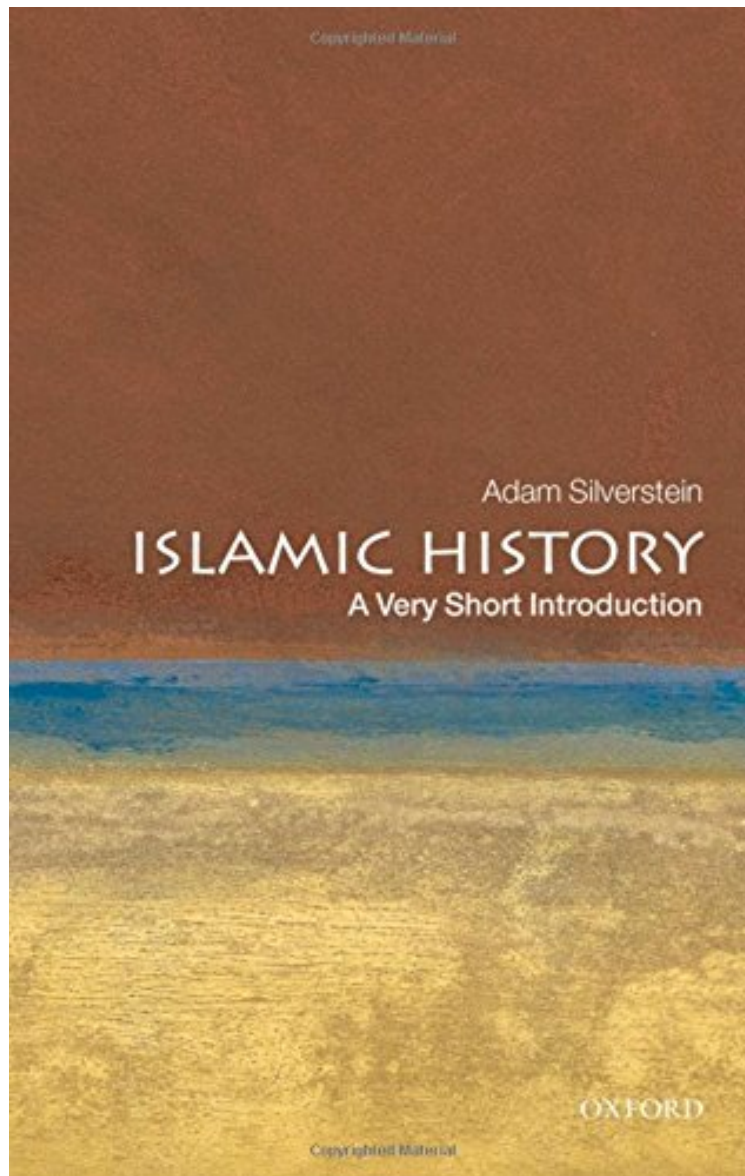


[Ebook free] Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction

Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction

Adam J. Silverstein

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Adam J. Silverstein : Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InsightfulBy CustomerSilverstein's monograph is a fairly quick read, and well worth the effort. The history is rather sparse, as the title implies, but it makes a nice companion to something

more detailed like Berkeley's "The Formation of Islam." Well-written throughout, value comes particularly in the analysis and insight developed in the later chapters and conclusion, though some may find it "controversial." Highly recommended. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. and found it to still be pretty good. By Erica G This was a decent intro to Islamic history from a Western historian's point of view. Most books about Islam that are written by Western scholars tend to be overly critical (in my opinion). Generally I prefer to read an anthropologist's take on Islamic issues if I'm to read a piece written from a non-Muslim, simply because they are less biased. I took a chance with this one, and found it to still be pretty good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read. By JHB Appreciated what I learned, the quality of the writing, the nature of the analysis. Realize that it is a "short introduction" but felt that I got a very good overview. Excellent read. Thank you.

Opening with a lucid overview of the rise and spread of Islam, from the seventh to the twenty-first century, this Very Short Introduction introduces the story of Islamic history, charting the evolution of what was originally a small, localized community of believers into an international religion with over a billion adherents. The book examines how Islam rose from the obscurity of seventh-century Arabia to the forefront of modern global concerns, and it highlights how we know what we claim to know about Islam's rise and development. Historian Adam J. Silverstein also discusses the peoples--Arabs, Persians, and Turks--who shaped Islamic history, and sheds light on three representative institutions--the mosque, jihad, and the caliphate--that highlight Islam's diversity over time. Finally, the book analyzes the roles that Islamic history has played in both religious and political contexts, while stressing the unique status that history enjoys among Muslims, especially compared to its lowly place in Western societies where history is often seen as little more than something that is not to be repeated.

"Silverstein is brief and brilliant...This short book has wonderful cultural-historical insights [on] every page--and suddenly Islamic history becomes, well, really interesting, understandable, related to Western history--and the present that much more explicable. The book is clear, witty, wise, and wonderful--read it." --School Library Journal Online
"Silverstein deserves praise for his successful effort in offering a readable and concise Islamic history. It will be instructive to curious students of any faith. His book is a credit to the outstanding Oxford series of 'Very Short Introductions.'" --Saudi Gazette
About the Author Adam J. Silverstein is University Research Lecturer in Near and Middle Eastern Studies and Fellow of The Queen's College, University of Oxford.