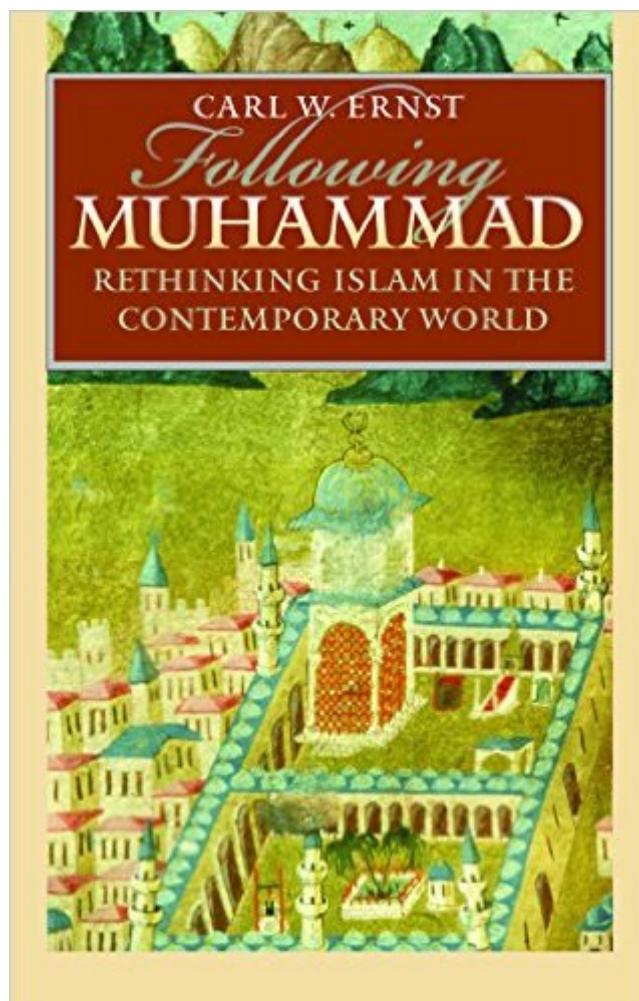


The book was found

Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam In The Contemporary World (Islamic Civilization And Muslim Networks)



Synopsis

Avoiding the traps of sensational political exposés and specialized scholarly Orientalism, Carl Ernst introduces readers to the profound spiritual resources of Islam while clarifying diversity and debate within the tradition. Framing his argument in terms of religious studies, Ernst describes how Protestant definitions of religion and anti-Muslim prejudice have affected views of Islam in Europe and America. He also covers the contemporary importance of Islam in both its traditional settings and its new locations and provides a context for understanding extremist movements like fundamentalism. He concludes with an overview of critical debates on important contemporary issues such as gender and veiling, state politics, and science and religion.

Book Information

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; 1 edition (October 27, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807828378

ISBN-13: 978-0807828373

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 5.3 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #353,958 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Muhammed #80 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Rituals & Practice #140 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Sufism

Customer Reviews

"Following Muhammad," the way Ernst sees it, is a book that fills a special niche. Although solid scholarship on Islam is available, it is often rendered inaccessible by impenetrable prose and circulated in very narrow academic circles through specialized journals. On the other hand, commercial publications approach the topic from the sensationalist angles and too often betray ideological attack agendas. What Ernst tries to do in "Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World" is to offer the lay reader a balanced, unimpeachably scholarly but thoroughly accessible, fair-minded but critical introduction to the religion of roughly one fifth of the world's population. By extension, the book sheds light on many of the references, and some of the misperceptions, that have become common currency in the rhetoric of the clash of civilizations. If September 11 influenced the

presentation of the book, it is "to highlight how we have constructed the notion of religion in recent history around the ideas of competition and confrontation, since all too often this modern world-imperial concept of religion is allowed to pass unexamined." For too many people, confrontation is the only way they have heard Islam described, he points out, and the culture of mass media today tends to create the notion that the present is the only time worth considering. Ernst therefore devotes the first part of the book to the interplay between religion and history across the ages, and traces the evolution of the long relationship between Islam and the West from the Middle Ages through colonial times to the present.

Simply put, this is a well written and informative book that I would whole-heartedly recommend to anyone interested in Islam, especially someone approaching the subject for the first time. Ernst begins the book by looking at how Islam has been misunderstood, sometimes very deliberately, in the "Western" (essentially Christian) world for the last 1400 years. In doing so, which, at least to me, accounted for some of the most interesting reading in the book, some will no doubt accuse Ernst of acting as an apologist, but the evidence he brings to bear on the issue, in an attempt to set the record straight, is so well presented, both in terms of writing style and in the appropriateness of historical examples etc., that such a line of argumentation is exposed as amateurish and specious. Ernst clearly knows what he's talking about and one certainly gets the sense that he is merely scratching the surface in marshaling evidence to support his various arguments and points. This last issue dove-tails into the only significant critique I have of the book - namely, that I wanted MORE detail, MORE examples etc. As I mentioned, Ernst is a great reservoir of information on Islam and one cannot therefore help but want to hear more from him. However, I certainly understand the need to limit the scope of any one portion of the book, and there is a good deal ahead after these opening issues. The remainder of the book looks very much like a somewhat unconventional, though still very good, introductory text on Islam - with sections on Muhammad, the Qur'an, Sufism, ethics etc.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World (Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks) Aden and the Indian Ocean Trade: 150 Years in the Life of a Medieval Arabian Port (Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks) Revival and Reform in Islam: The Legacy of Muhammad al-Shawkani (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization) Islam:A very short Introduction,Islam:What the west needs to know,Islam for Dummies,Islam:The straight path 2014 The Prophet Muhammad Storybook-1: Islamic Children's Books on the Quran, the Hadith and the Prophet Muhammad La

Historia de Mahoma (Muhammad): Vida del Profeta Muhammad (PB) e historia de los orígenes del Islam (Spanish Edition) This Is Islam: From Muhammad and the community of believers to Islam in the global community (This World of Ours) Muslim Tradition: Studies in Chronology, Provenance and Authorship of Early Hadith (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization) Islamic Law: Handbook of Islamic rulings on Muslim's duties and practices The Deception of Allah Volume 1 (study in depth of Islam, investigating Muhammad and Islam, volume 1 The Evil Teachings of Islam, Quran & Prophet Muhammad: Irrelevance of Islam Islam for Beginners: Basics of Islam and Muslim Customs (+ Gift Inside) A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization Men in Charge?: Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy in the Medieval and Modern World (Foundations of Islam) My Name Used to Be Muhammad: The True Story of a Muslim Who Became a Christian The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim A God Who Hates: The Courageous Woman Who Inflamed the Muslim World Speaks Out Against the Evils of Islam Understanding Islam: An Introduction to the Muslim World, Third Edition

[Dmca](#)