

A History Of Islamic Societies

A History Of Islamic Societies A history of Islamic societies is a captivating journey through the development of one of the most influential cultural, religious, and political civilizations in human history. From its origins in the Arabian Peninsula to its expansive reach across continents, Islamic societies have contributed significantly to science, technology, philosophy, art, and governance. This article explores the historical evolution, key periods, and societal structures that have defined Islamic societies over the centuries.

Origins of Islamic Societies

The Birth of Islam

Islamic societies trace their origins to the 7th century CE in the Arabian Peninsula. According to Islamic tradition, the Prophet Muhammad received divine revelations from Allah (God) through the Angel Gabriel around 610 CE. These revelations, compiled into the Quran, form the religious foundation of Islam. Muhammad's teachings emphasized monotheism, social justice, and community, which quickly gained followers across the Arabian tribes.

The Prophet Muhammad's Life and Leadership

Muhammad's leadership unified the disparate tribes of Arabia, establishing a socio-political order based on Islamic principles. His migration (Hijra) to Medina in 622 CE marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar. In Medina, Muhammad established a nascent Islamic society, blending religious doctrine with social and political governance.

The Expansion of Islamic Societies

The Rashidun Caliphate (632–661 CE)

Following Muhammad's death, his closest companions, known as the Rightly Guided Caliphs, led the Muslim community. The Rashidun Caliphate expanded rapidly beyond Arabia into the Levant, Egypt, Persia, and North Africa. This period was characterized by the consolidation of Islamic rule and the spread of Islamic culture.

The Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties

The Umayyad Caliphate (661–750 CE)

established the first major Islamic dynasty, with its capital in Damascus. They expanded the empire into Spain and Central Asia.

The Abbasid Caliphate (750–1258 CE)

with Baghdad as its capital, marked a golden age of Islamic civilization, fostering advancements in science, mathematics, medicine, and philosophy, often called the Islamic Golden Age.

Societal Structures in Islamic Societies

Social Hierarchy and Community

Islamic societies traditionally organized themselves around the concept of ummah, emphasizing a sense of community among Muslims. Social hierarchies often included:

- Ulema:** Religious scholars and jurists responsible for interpreting Islamic law (Sharia).
- Emirs and Sultans:** Political leaders who governed territories.
- Merchants and Traders:** Vital to the economic vitality of Islamic cities.

Artisans and Farmers: Engaged in local crafts and agriculture. Legal and Educational Systems Islamic societies placed a strong emphasis on education and legal systems based on Sharia law. Madrasas (educational institutions) proliferated, becoming centers of learning in various fields, including theology, science, and literature. Cultural and Scientific Contributions Advancements During the Islamic Golden Age Between the 8th and 14th centuries, Islamic societies made groundbreaking contributions: Science and Medicine: Pioneering works by scholars like Al-Razi and Ibn Sina laid foundations for modern medicine. Mathematics: The development of algebra by Al-Khwarizmi and the introduction of Arabic numerals revolutionized calculations. Philosophy and Literature: Thinkers like Al-Farabi and Ibn Rushd (Averroes) engaged with Greek philosophy, enriching Islamic intellectual tradition. Architecture: Iconic structures such as mosques with intricate geometric designs and calligraphy exemplify Islamic artistic achievement. Islamic Societies in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods The Mongol Invasions and the Decline of the Abbasids The 13th century saw the Mongol invasions, which devastated Baghdad and marked the decline of the Abbasid Caliphate. Despite this, Islamic culture persisted, especially in regions like Egypt, Persia, and the Ottoman Empire. 3 The Rise of the Ottoman Empire Founded at the end of the 13th century, the Ottoman Empire (1299–1922) became a dominant Islamic power, controlling Southeast Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa. The Ottomans unified diverse peoples under a sophisticated administrative system and contributed to arts, architecture, and military innovations. Modern Islamic Societies Colonialism and Its Impact From the 18th to the early 20th centuries, European colonial powers exerted influence over many Muslim-majority regions, leading to political upheavals and social transformations. Colonial policies often suppressed traditional institutions but also facilitated modernization in some areas. Post-Colonial Developments The 20th century saw the emergence of independent nation-states across the Muslim world, with varying degrees of democratic governance, economic development, and social change. Movements for political Islam, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, gained prominence, advocating for the integration of Islamic principles into modern governance. Contemporary Islamic Societies Challenges and Opportunities Modern Islamic societies face numerous challenges, including: Balancing tradition with modernization Addressing social inequality and political instability Dealing with extremism and violence Engaging with global issues such as climate change and technological advancement At the same time, Islamic societies continue to contribute to global culture, economy, and diplomacy, fostering dialogue and cooperation. Islamic Societies in the Global Context Today, Islamic societies are diverse, spanning continents from Asia and Africa to Europe and the Americas. They are characterized by a vibrant mix of tradition and innovation, with young populations

eager to shape their future while honoring their rich heritage. 4 Conclusion A history of Islamic societies reveals a dynamic and resilient civilization that has profoundly influenced world history. From its humble beginnings in the Arabian Peninsula to its role as a major cultural and political force across continents, Islamic societies have demonstrated remarkable adaptability and creativity. As they navigate the complexities of the 21st century, understanding their historical evolution provides valuable insights into their ongoing contributions and challenges. --- Keywords: Islamic societies, history of Islam, Islamic civilization, Islamic Golden Age, Caliphate, Ottoman Empire, Islamic culture, Islamic contributions, modern Islamic societies QuestionAnswer What are the key historical periods in the development of Islamic societies? Islamic societies have evolved through several key periods, including the Prophet Muhammad's lifetime (7th century), the Rashidun Caliphate, the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates, the Islamic Golden Age, the Ottoman Empire, and modern nation-states. Each period contributed to cultural, scientific, and political developments that shaped Islamic civilization. How did the Islamic Golden Age influence global science and culture? During the Islamic Golden Age (8th to 14th centuries), scholars made significant advances in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy. Centers like Baghdad's House of Wisdom facilitated translation and innovation, which later influenced European Renaissance and contributed to global knowledge. In what ways did Islamic societies contribute to art and architecture? Islamic societies are renowned for their distinctive art and architecture, including intricate geometric patterns, calligraphy, and grand structures like mosques and palaces. Notable examples include the Alhambra in Spain, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, and the Taj Mahal in India. What role did Islamic law (Sharia) play in shaping historical societies? Sharia law served as a comprehensive legal framework guiding personal conduct, criminal justice, and social order in Islamic societies. Its principles influenced governance, social norms, and community relations throughout history. How did the spread of Islam influence the cultural landscapes of regions like North Africa and Southeast Asia? Islam spread through trade, conquest, and missionary work, profoundly impacting local cultures by introducing new religious practices, art forms, and social structures. In North Africa and Southeast Asia, Islam became a unifying cultural force, blending with indigenous traditions. What impact did colonialism have on Islamic societies in the 19th and 20th centuries? Colonialism disrupted traditional Islamic governance and social systems, leading to political upheaval, modernization efforts, and the emergence of nationalist movements. It also influenced religious interpretation and contributed to contemporary identity debates. 5 How have modern Islamic societies balanced tradition and modernity? Modern Islamic societies navigate maintaining religious and cultural traditions while

adopting scientific, technological, and political advancements. This balance varies across countries, with some emphasizing secular governance and others integrating Islamic principles into state policies. What role did trade routes like the Silk Road play in the development of Islamic societies? Trade routes like the Silk Road facilitated economic prosperity, cultural exchange, and the spread of Islamic ideas, technologies, and art. Major Islamic cities became vibrant centers of commerce and cultural interaction. How has the concept of Islamic civilization evolved in contemporary global discourse? Contemporary discourse often emphasizes the rich historical achievements of Islamic civilization while addressing modern challenges such as political conflicts, reform movements, and intercultural dialogue, highlighting both the historical legacy and ongoing developments. What influence did prominent Islamic scholars have on the development of science and philosophy? Scholars like Al-Farabi, Avicenna (Ibn Sina), and Al-Ghazali made groundbreaking contributions to philosophy, medicine, and logic, which influenced both Islamic and European thought, fostering a legacy of intellectual inquiry and scientific progress. A History of Islamic Societies Islamic societies have profoundly shaped the course of history, culture, science, and civilization from the 7th century onward. Their development reflects a complex tapestry of religious beliefs, political structures, economic practices, and cultural achievements. Tracing this history offers insights into how a faith-based community evolved into a diverse array of civilizations that have influenced the world in myriad ways. This article delves into the origins, expansion, cultural contributions, and contemporary evolution of Islamic societies, providing a comprehensive yet accessible overview of their historical trajectory. --- Origins of Islamic Societies: The Birth of a Faith and Community The Life of Prophet Muhammad and the Revelation of Islam The story of Islamic societies begins in the early 7th century CE in the Arabian Peninsula. Prophet Muhammad, born around 570 CE in Mecca, is regarded by Muslims as the final prophet tasked with delivering God's message. According to Islamic tradition, Muhammad received revelations from the Angel Gabriel, which were later compiled into the Quran, the holy book of Islam. These revelations emphasized monotheism, social justice, compassion, and community (ummah). Initially facing opposition in Mecca, Muhammad and his followers migrated to Medina in 622 CE—a pivotal event known as the Hijra—marking the beginning of the Islamic calendar. Formation of the Early Islamic Community In Medina, Muhammad established a cohesive Muslim community governed by Islamic principles. The Constitution of Medina became an early blueprint for pluralistic governance, accommodating Muslims, Jews, and other tribes. This period saw the consolidation of religious, political, and social structures that would underpin subsequent Islamic societies. The Rashidun Caliphate and the Expansion Following Muhammad's death

in 632 CE, the A History Of Islamic Societies 6 Rashidun Caliphate was established, led by the first four caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali. Under their leadership, Islamic influence expanded rapidly beyond Arabia into parts of the Byzantine and Sassanian empires, including Syria, Egypt, Persia, and North Africa. This expansion was facilitated by military conquests, trade networks, and the appeal of Islamic governance. The early caliphate also fostered the development of administrative institutions, legal systems, and cultural practices that would define Islamic societies. --- The Golden Age of Islam: Cultural, Scientific, and Economic Flourishing The Abbasid Dynasty and Baghdad as a Cultural Capital The Abbasid dynasty, which came to power in 750 CE, marked a golden age for Islamic civilization. Capitalizing on the foundations laid by the Rashidun and Umayyad caliphates, the Abbasids established Baghdad as a vibrant hub of knowledge, commerce, and culture. During this period, Islamic societies became centers for scientific discovery, philosophical inquiry, and artistic expression. The translation movement—translating Greek, Persian, Indian, and Syriac texts into Arabic—preserved and expanded upon ancient knowledge. Scientific and Technological Innovations Islamic scholars made groundbreaking contributions across various fields: - Mathematics: Development of algebra by Al-Khwarizmi; introduction of Arabic numerals. - Medicine: Advances by scholars like Al-Razi and Ibn Sina (Avicenna), who authored influential medical texts. - Astronomy: Improvements in observational instruments and the compilation of star catalogs. - Optics: Pioneering work by Ibn al-Haytham, laying the groundwork for modern optics. Cultural and Artistic Achievements Islamic societies also excelled in arts, architecture, and literature: - Architecture: The construction of iconic structures like the Alhambra, the Great Mosque of Córdoba, and the Dome of the Rock. - Calligraphy and Decorative Arts: Masterpieces of calligraphy, tilework, and intricate geometric patterns. - Literature: Rich poetic traditions, including the works of Rumi and Omar Khayyam, alongside epic tales like the "One Thousand and One Nights." Economic and Social Structures Trade routes such as the Silk Road flourished under Islamic rule, facilitating the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures. Urban centers became bustling markets, and a sophisticated financial system—including early forms of banking and credit—developed to support commerce. --- The Fragmentation and Regional Diversity of Islamic Societies The Decline of Central Authority and the Rise of Regional Powers From the 12th century onward, the vast Islamic empire experienced fragmentation due to internal disputes, invasions, and political upheavals. Key regional powers emerged: - The Seljuk Turks: Played a crucial role in defending the Islamic world against Crusaders and Mongols. - The Mamluks: Controlled Egypt and the Levant, maintaining Islamic sovereignty. - The Ottoman Empire: Established in 1299, eventually leading to a vast empire spanning Southeast Europe, Western

Asia, and North Africa. The Ottoman Empire: A Model of Islamic Governance The Ottomans, with their sophisticated administrative system and military prowess, became one of the most influential Islamic dynasties. Their capital, Istanbul (formerly Constantinople), was a center of commerce, culture, and A History Of Islamic Societies 7 Islamic scholarship. The Ottoman Caliphate, recognized as the spiritual leader of Sunni Islam until the early 20th century, exemplified a blend of religious authority and imperial governance. Cultural and Religious Diversity Throughout history, Islamic societies have been characterized by remarkable diversity: - Sunni and Shia: The two main branches of Islam often coexisted, sometimes contentiously. - Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity: From Arabs and Persians to Turks, Berbers, Malays, and South Asians. - Integration of Local Cultures: Islamic practices and art often incorporated local traditions, resulting in regional variations. --- Modern Transformations and Contemporary Islamic Societies Colonial Encounters and the Emergence of Modern States From the 18th century onward, European colonial powers exerted influence over many Islamic regions, leading to political upheavals, the carving of new borders, and the imposition of Western legal and educational systems. Post-colonial nations grappled with identity, governance, and modernization, often balancing traditional Islamic values with contemporary statehood. Resurgence of Islamic Identity and Movements In the 20th and 21st centuries, a resurgence of Islamic identity has influenced politics worldwide. Movements advocating for political Islam, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, and various Islamist parties, have sought to shape governance according to Islamic principles. Challenges and Opportunities Modern Islamic societies face complex challenges: - Political Instability: Conflicts in regions like the Middle East and North Africa. - Economic Development: Addressing poverty and inequality while integrating into global markets. - Cultural Preservation: Maintaining religious and cultural identities amidst globalization. - Reform and Modernization: Navigating questions of secularism, democracy, and human rights. At the same time, Islamic societies contribute significantly to global science, technology, arts, and diplomacy, illustrating their ongoing relevance. --- Conclusion: The Ever-Evolving Tapestry of Islamic Societies A history of Islamic societies is a story of profound influence, resilience, and diversity. From the humble beginnings in 7th century Arabia to the sprawling empires and modern nation-states, Islamic civilization has continually adapted and thrived. Its contributions to science, culture, and governance have left an indelible mark on world history. Understanding this history not only enriches our appreciation of Islamic societies but also underscores the importance of dialogue, respect, and cooperation in an interconnected world. As they continue to evolve, Islamic societies remain vital participants in shaping the future of global civilization. Islamic civilization, Islamic history, Islamic culture, Islamic

empires, Islamic art, Islamic architecture, Muslim societies, Islamic civilization development, Arab history, Islamic religious practices

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this third edition of ira m lapidus s classic a history of islamic societies has been substantially revised to incorporate the insights of new scholarship and updated to include historical developments in the first decade of the twenty first century lapidus s history explores the beginnings and transformations of islamic civilizations in the middle east and details islam s worldwide diffusion to africa spain turkey and the balkans central south and southeast asia and north america situating islamic societies within their global political and economic contexts it accounts for the impact of european imperialism on islamic societies and traces the

development of the modern national state system and the simultaneous islamic revival from the early nineteenth century to the present this book is essential for readers seeking to understand muslim peoples publisher information

this new edition of one of the most widely used course books on islamic civilizations around the world has been substantially revised to incorporate the new scholarship and insights of the last twenty five years ira lapidus history explores the beginnings and transformations of islamic civilizations in the middle east and details islam s worldwide diffusion the history is divided into four parts part i is a comprehensive account of pre islamic late antiquity the beginnings of islam the early islamic empires and islamic religious artistic legal and intellectual cultures part ii deals with the construction in the middle east of islamic religious communities and states to the fifteenth century part iii includes the history to the nineteenth century of islamic north africa and spain the ottoman safavid and mughal empires and other islamic societies in asia and africa part iv accounts for the impact of european commercial and imperial domination on islamic societies and traces the development of the modern national state system and the simultaneous islamic revival from the early nineteenth century to the present

first published in 1988 ira lapidus a history of islamic societies has become a classic in the field enlightening students scholars and others with a thirst for knowledge about one of the world s great civilizations this book based on fully revised and updated parts one and two of this monumental work describes the transformations of islamic societies from their beginning in the seventh century through their diffusion across the globe into the challenges of the nineteenth century the story focuses on the organization of families and tribes religious groups and states showing how they were transformed by their interactions with other religious and political communities the book concludes with the european commercial and imperial interventions that initiated a new set of transformations in the islamic world and the onset of the modern era organized in narrative sections for the history of each major region with innovative analytic summary introductions and conclusions this book is a unique endeavour

ira lapidus classic history of the origins and evolution of muslim societies revised and updated for this second edition first published in 2002

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first published in 1983 this edited collection is based on contributions at a scandinavian symposium on the place of women in islamic society it offers perspectives which illuminate our understanding of social relationships and structures pertaining to a vast number of the world s population dispersed throughout asia and africa sociological and anthropological investigations of social organization and the behavioural patterns provided in these papers demonstrate that the status of women their rights duties and control over property their body the degree of seclusion and veiling vary considerably overall this collection of papers show that the relationship between islam and the everyday lives of muslim women is a complex picture one that is confronted with a considerable range of interpretations of laws and traditions this book will be of particular interest to those studying women and islam anthropology religion and sociology

this handbook addresses the historical background of the islamic world and reviews its basic past intellectual achievements it studies social progress of these regions and sub regions in comparison with other parts of the world it uses large data sets and well established statistically weighted indexes in order to assess the nature and pace of the multiple facets of social change in member states of the organization of islamic cooperation oic the handbook extensively discusses the main challenges confronting the islamic nations in the social economic political and ideological fields though it is recognizable that social change in the islamic world is generally positive it remains highly variable in pace and there is room to speed it up to the benefit of millions of deprived muslim people hence the book studies the different propositions and programs of action such as the united nations millennium development campaign and the oic s ten year programme of action to present an integrated and comprehensive agenda of action to help improve the situation in the islamic world

Islam is more than a religion in the strict theological sense if we confine ourselves to doctrinal normativity and Islamic law to analyse what Muslims motivate and how they build religious landscapes and life worlds we seriously narrow down our understanding of Islam. Islamic society is a universal society found at every place in East and West in South and North and found at all time it was not only found at the time of the prophet but also before his time and at the time of other messengers from Adam to Jesus peace be upon them all and after their time Koranic teachings promote an ascetic ethic of self control that bears on virtually all aspects of everyday activity for Muslims faith has not merely been a matter of private life and a personal relation with God it has had pervasive social consequences the Holy Qur'an and the traditions of the prophet are concerned about Muslim and Islamic society in many ways these Holy books focus on the importance of Islamic society because Allah and his prophet believes that Muslims Ummah are the best among all Adam's generation consequently Islamic religion takes them out from the darkness into the light in order to achieve happiness felicity in this world and the hereafter this book *Islam and Muslim Societies* consists of studies dealing with political economic legal and social policies that affect every facet of the social life of Muslims this book is aimed at bridging the gap between the textual and contextual approaches to Islamic studies and solving the dichotomy between orthodox and heterodox Islam it contains a selection of studies written by scholars and authors dealing with Islam and Muslim societies as its central focus of academic inquiry and to encourage comprehensive consideration of its many facets to provide an opportunity for the study of Islam and Muslim societies in their global context to encourage interdisciplinary studies of the Islamic world that are cross national and comparative to promote the diffusion exchange and discussion of research findings and to encourage interaction among academics from various traditions of learning

there has been a significant upsurge of western interest in the political manifestations and significance of Islam in the last decade fuelled by the notion of Islamic revival the Iranian revolution and by events in countries as diverse as Egypt Pakistan and Sudan oil power and its effect on the international economic order the relationship of Muslim countries with the superpowers and the continuation of the Arab Israeli conflict have also served to focus attention on Islamic politics and in particular on the notion of Islamic reassertion as the author of this book argues one result of this interest has been the development of a view of Islam as monolithic and implacable he takes a broad view of the intellectual and cultural history of Islam emphasising the extraordinary diversity of Islamic societies and the ways in which the ideal is often pragmatically adapted to reality in this wider social and historical context the

nature of islamic revival is then reassessed first published in 1988

currently the fanatics rule islam their islam is not a religion of peace just as reading hitler s mein kampf would have provided a forewarning on what he intended so the reading of islamic ideologues unmasks the intentions of the radical islamic leadership by its very nature the ideology of the salafist movements does not allow for the prospect of negotiation compromise or coexistence once the traditionalists made their way through the six hadith manuals they declared the judgment process finished forever as a result the book that is the foundation of the faith and the interpretation of the teachings of the prophet were both determined by the tenth century to be immutable all nonaeur muslim societies are ignorant societies muslim societies are the only civilized societies only through the total destruction of secular societies can the islamic system be secure an islamic system means the abolition of manaeur made laws in a theocracy based on shari ah the project represents a flexible multiaeur phased longaeur term approach to the cultural invasion of the west calling for the utilization of various tactics ranging from immigration infiltration surveillance propaganda protest deception political legitimacy and terrorism the project has served for more than three decades as the muslim brotherhood master plan

examining the theoretical problems which arose when the modern european ideology of nationalism was adopted by muslim societies organized into formally modern states this book first published in 1987 also deals with the practical difficulties arising from the doctrinal incompatibility between islam and the non muslim concept of the territorial nation state it illustrates this conflict with a consideration of the record of several states in the islamic world it suggests that whereas the state an organization of power has been a most durable institution in islamic history the legitimacy of the nation state has always been challenged in favour of the wide islamic nation the umma which comprises all the faithful without reference to territorial boundaries to this extent too the more recent conception of arab nationalism projects a far larger nation state than the existing territorial states in the arab world today this title will be of interest to students of middle eastern studies

when americans look at the muslim world they see a uniform culture arab with a single language arabic communicated through a uniform religious belief and practice islam fluehr lobban shows us how simplistic and mistaken this view is library journal islamic societies in practice is an eloquent thought provoking antidote to the american media s attempts to reduce the complexity of the muslim world to 30 second sound bytes fluehr lobban proffers

insights which are the result of an open mind and long term field experience she addresses the misconceptions which many westerners have about the middle east not only with fact and historical content but also with anecdotal material about her own experience there an unbeatable combination middle east women s studies review an accessible primer on islamic society providing a good historical overview with a focus on how islam is practiced the author s descriptions of islamic values and social practices gender relations and the tensions within the umma or the world muslim community are effectively filtered through her own experience publishers weekly a wonderful contribution to the field a concrete set of images and stories that offer many opportunities for discussions of the politics of ordinary life as well as the opportunities in the region for increasing democracy greater human rights and expanded women s roles international journal of middle east studies originally written in the wake of the gulf war this book introduced the west to everyday arab islamic cultures and societies humanizing the region and its people it ventured behind the headlines to offer a positive constructive view of islam and muslims showing how islam is lived and practiced in daily life now revised and expanded in the wake of the 9 11 attacks and the wars in afghanistan and iraq islamic societies in practice embraces the breadth of global islam with significant new material on islam in africa asia europe and the united states as well as the middle east new maps and illustrations are included detailing the diversity and representation of islam and muslims throughout the world additional material includes discussions of male and female relations folk islam popular expressions of faith and the five pillars sufism including the turkish dervishes ethnic and racial differences in the muslim world islamic law and the application of harsh punishments political islam and the future of the state in the islamic world and the many voices of progressive muslims feminists human rights activists and anti extremist writers carolyn fluehr lobban is professor of anthropology at rhode island college

reflecting recent global developments the second edition of this illuminating introduction to islamic history expands its coverage of the qur an sufism and muslim views on human rights including the rights of women an expanded new edition of this concise illuminating introduction to islam written by one of the field s leading scholars spans islamic history from the life of muhammad and the birth of islamic ideals through islam s phenomenal geographical expansion and cultural development to the creation of modern states and its role in today s global society features expanded coverage of the qur an sufism and muslim views on human rights including the rights of women includes fascinating vignettes of islamic life representing mainstream muslim viewpoints on issues of global concern explores the

complex interrelationships of cultural political and ideological developments woven throughout islamic history drawing on specific examples including current developments in pakistan

senior scholars of islamic studies and the anthropology of islam gather in this volume to pay tribute to one of the giants of the field dale f eickelman in diversely arrayed rigorous and compelling chapters leading historians anthropologists and political scientists elaborate through their own original research on dale s unique contributions to the study of the modern muslim world eickelman s reflections on the diverse intellectual traditions of muslim societies and the scholars and laypersons who enact them remain defining as a framework for intellectual inquiry into the modern muslim world and the profound changes that are transpiring within it contributors are jon w anderson el sayed el aswad simeon evstatiev allen james fromherz harvey e goldberg gilles kepel mandana limbert simon o meara abdelrhani moundib muhammad khalid masud nadav samir susan slyomovics jenny white and muhammad qasim zaman

does religiosity diminish democratic economic and civil tendencies do islamic traditions provoke more hostility to democratic values in comparison to other religious traditions in religion religiosity and democratic values abbas mehregan undertakes an empirical examination of the effects of individual religiosity historical religion institutional democracy and socioeconomic development on attitudes towards free market economics and confidence in traditional modern and post modern civil society organizations using multilevel analysis mehregan compares 60 islamic christian buddhist hindu and folk religion societies in these regards furthermore in addition to an empirical comparison of sunni and shia islamic countries a theoretical investigation of the relationship between islam and democratic economic and civil values provides a comprehensive insight into the topic

a unique contribution that tests the essence of islamic societies by observing them in practice i found her insights on gender relations to be profound and refreshing ghada talhami lake forest college a comprehensive piece of work on contemporary arab society clear sympathetic but not apologetic ismail abdalla college of william and mary written in the wake of the gulf war this book introduces the west to everyday arab islamic culture and society humanizing the region and its people it ventures behind the headlines to offer a positive constructive view of islam and muslims showing how islam is lived and practiced in daily life in the sudan egypt and tunisia islamic society in practice is both scholarly and

personal intended for classroom use and for a general audience it examines islamic society on a grassroots level using the basic anthropological method of participant observation it treats the major dimensions of islamic society from the core elements of the religion including the religious social values it promotes to the type of society it engenders the laws that institutionalize social practice and the contemporary movements for reform or restoration of islamic precepts in individual nations writing from the perspective of a sympathetic american woman carolyn fluehr lobban discusses in depth the social dynamics of gender transformation and islam examining the complex issue as one more dilemma confronting societies that are struggling to cope with western ways of thinking fluehr lobban s formal research and informal observations span the years 1970 to 1990 a time of dynamic change for the arab and muslim worlds these decades took her from the life of a graduate student to that of a professor with her husband and two daughters she lived and conducted field research traveling extensively in africa and the middle east she conveys here the richness of her family experiences in their adopted communities their deepening understanding of both western and islamic culture and their growing appreciation for the muslim other as a fellow human being carolyn fluehr lobban is professor of anthropology at rhode island college

now reissued with a new introduction discovering islam is a classic account of how the history of islam and its relations with the west have shaped islamic society today islam is often caricatured as aggressive and fanatic written in the tradition of ibn khaldun this readable and wide ranging book balances that image uncovers the roots of islamic discontent and celebrates the sources of its strength from the four ideal caliphs who succeeded the prophet to the refugee camps of peshawar an objective picture emerges of the main features of muslim history and the compulsions of muslim society

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