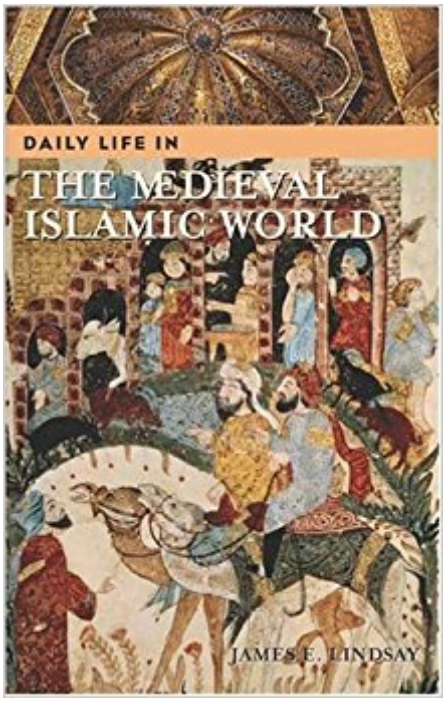
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Daily Life In The Medieval Islamic World



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Synopsis

From the time of its birth in Mecca in the 7th century C.E., Islam and the Islamic world rapidly expanded outward, extending to Spain and West Africa in the west, and to Central Asia and the Indian Subcontinent in the east. An examination of the daily life in these Islamic regions provides insight into a civilized, powerful, and economically stable culture, where large metropolitan centers such as Damascus, Baghdad, and Cairo thrived in many areas, including intellectual and scientific inquiry. In contrast with medieval Europe, there is little common knowledge in the West of the culture and history of this vibrant world, as different from our own in terms of the political, religious, and social values it possessed, as it is similar in terms of the underlying human situation that supports such values. This book provides an intimate look into the daily life of the medieval Islamic world, and is thus an invaluable resource for students and general readers alike interested in understanding this world, so different, and yet so connected, to our own.Chapters include discussions of: the major themes of medieval Islamic history; Arabia, the world of Islamic origins; warfare and politics; the major cities of Damascus, Baghdad, and Cairo; religious rituals and worship; and a section on curious and entertaining information. Author James E. Lindsay further provides a focused look at the daily lives of urban Muslims during this time period, and of their interactions with Jews, Christians and other Muslims. Timelines, tables (including a calendar conversion to align the Islamic lunar and the Christian solar dates, and a dynastic table highlighting the major genealogies of the ancient ruling families), a bibliography, and a glossary of important dates and technical terms are also provided to assist the reader.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So informative...I was wanting to understand...from the beginning.Great service

For those who are embarking on a study of Islam, this book is a great start. It is written clearly and for non-specialists. It will provide you will good historical information as well as an understanding of the cultural situation upon which Islam emerged from. The author will give you a little window into numerous elements of Islamic belief, cultural practices, historical patterns, as well as relevant geographical information. As one finishes this book, there are many paths of additional study that one will want to pursue. As the author is an historian, he presents the history, and the basic historical viewpoints of Islam rather than placing moral or value judgments. Instead of trying to say what is right, or wrong, he tells what the Muslims in this period of Islam believed, wrote, and took action upon. As a history teacher, I have tried to follow a similar model in teaching anything that can be considered controversial (which is almost anything in today's world). Let the people from the historical era speak for themselves. It does not matter what I or anyone else thinks, this is about what people did, and believed in their own eras. The author of this book does this, and far more effectively than I, so I respect his technique and skill as an historian. Do keep in mind that this is an introductory work, so do not expect deep and intense analysis (although this author has other works that do this). There are portions of this book that would seem to be begging to have more material on, but just notate that and look for sources specific to that topic on your own. So, this is a good book and will get you started into deeper studies.

Condition was as expected with a used copy. The book itself was much more interesting than I thought. I had 4 books of similar quality of writing for this class, but this book was definitely the most digestible.

Eye opener on things that's hardly discussed in typical history books, especially for new readers in the Medieval Islamic world.

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