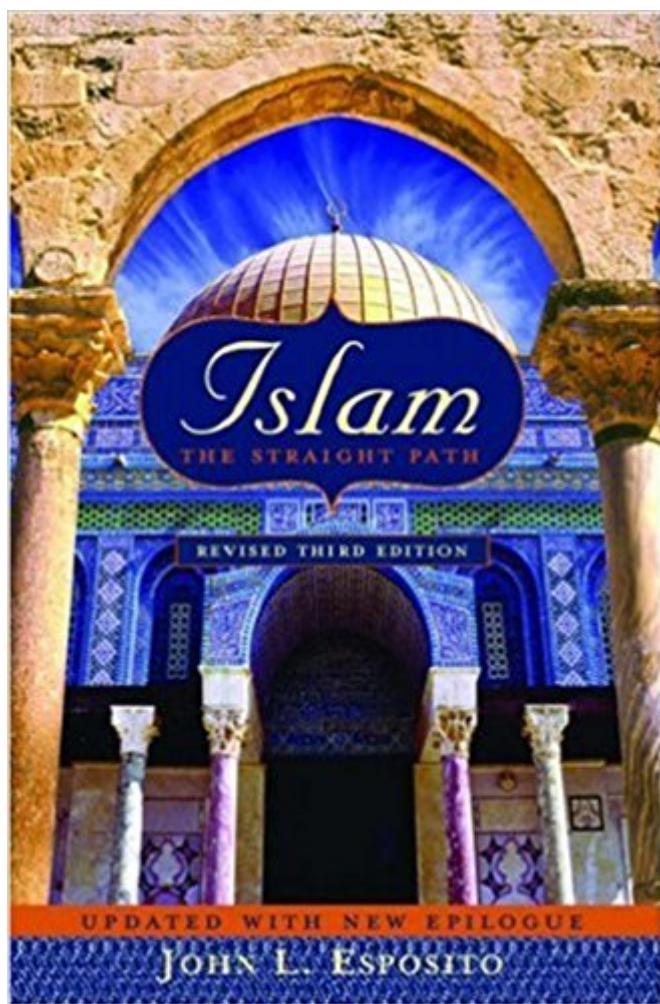


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# Islam: The Straight Path Updated With New Epilogue, 3rd Edition



## **Synopsis**

This updated version of Islam: The Straight Path includes a new Epilogue by John Esposito in which he addresses the impact 9/11 and its aftermath have had on both the Muslim and non-Muslim world, discussing Islam's relationship to democracy and modernity and focusing more sharply on the origins and growth of extremism and terrorism in the name of Islam. This exceptionally successful survey text introduces the faith, belief, and practice of Islam from its earliest origins up to its contemporary resurgence. Esposito, an internationally renowned expert on Islam, traces the development of this dynamic faith and its impact on world history and politics, discussing the formation of Islamic belief and practice and chronicling the struggle of Muslims to define and adhere to their Islamic way of life. Lucidly written and expansive in scope, Islam: The Straight Path provides keen insight into one of the world's least understood religions and is ideally suited for use in courses on Islam, comparative religions, and Middle Eastern history and culture.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Praise for previous editions: "The answer to every teacher's prayer for an informed and balanced introductory book. Elegantly written, beautifully synthesized, and helpful."--Leila Fawaz, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy"A splendid introduction to Islam. Esposito paints over a wide canvas in depicting the emergence of the Muslim community, the varieties of Muslim beliefs and practices, the tensions between tradition and modernity, and the Islamic resurgence of recent years...A timely gem."--Philip Khoury, Massachusetts Institute of Technology"The best and most obvious choice for

courses on Islam, Islamic history, and Middle Eastern history. Well-written and accessible to undergraduates. The best English language text on Islam."--Robert S. Kramer, St. Norbert College"One of the best introductory texts on Islam and the Islamic world. I think the book's greatest strength is that it's written in a way that is comprehensible and easily accessible without compromising substance."--Ibrahim Kalim, College of the Holy Cross

John L. Esposito is at Georgetown University.

I was looking for a history of Islam in the detached view from a neutral third party and had this book recommended to me. I think the tendency of the writing is to avoid tough questions entirely and make soft answers for others. It covered good fundamentals but seemed less a scholarly interpretation of Islam than an explanation of Islam's point of view. Not bad perse, but not what I was looking for.

A good introduction to Islam and it's history. The author explains the orgins and core beliefs of the religion. The development of Islam is presented within its social and cultural context (which is how I think most religions should be studied but is especially important in Islam since it is incoporated into every aspect of a Muslim's life), and shows how it both influenced the cultures it appeared in and was influenced by them. I didn't notice any bias one way or the other. The names of significant figures, leaders and groups are listed and its a little hard to keep straight. The author had a tendancy to repeat certain phrases and sentences from earlier sections almost word for word, which I found annoying but probably wouldn't bother most readers :)

A wonderful analysis from a writer who does not practice this religion. This is a great reading for people of all beliefs.

Def worth picking up if you would like to learn more a out the history and development of Islam as well as some of the early leadership.

Great

This book is for everyone that wants to learn about Islam and its diversity. There is no bias tainting this work, just sound scholalry research.

Esposito does a fine job of relating Islam to the lay person. His text is easy to read, the definitions are solid and he dispells much of the myth surrounding Islam. The newest text references 9/11 and the radical sects which have surfaced since then. I would highly recommend this text to teachers and students alike; as well as those who are simply looking for a way to properly understand the history, beliefs and laws of Islam.

This is a scholarly written introductory book to anyone like me who is curious about Islam. The book can be generally broken down into four parts. The first part talks about the history of Islam. The second part talks about the belief and practice of this religion. I think for the readers out there who is looking for an in-depth treatment of Islam as a religion, this book is not the right book but it should be a good starting point. At least certain concepts such as 'jihad' and veiling are discussed in detail. The third and final sections of the book talks about the evolution of Islam through time till present day. Some aspects are rather repetitive (for example, the characteristics of ulama has been mentioned several times), but overall, you get to know the differences between Sunni and Shii, what internal struggles Islam is (or has been) going through, as well as how and why Islam is so tightly integrated to politics and life. Overall this is a readable (although it can be slightly dry sometimes) and reliable book. My only criticism is that, in the chapters where the modern Islam countries are discussed, for some reasons unknown, countries like Iraq, Syria and Palestine have been completely left out. This is quite a big omission as these countries have huge impact in the Middle East (and evolution of Islam in general).

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