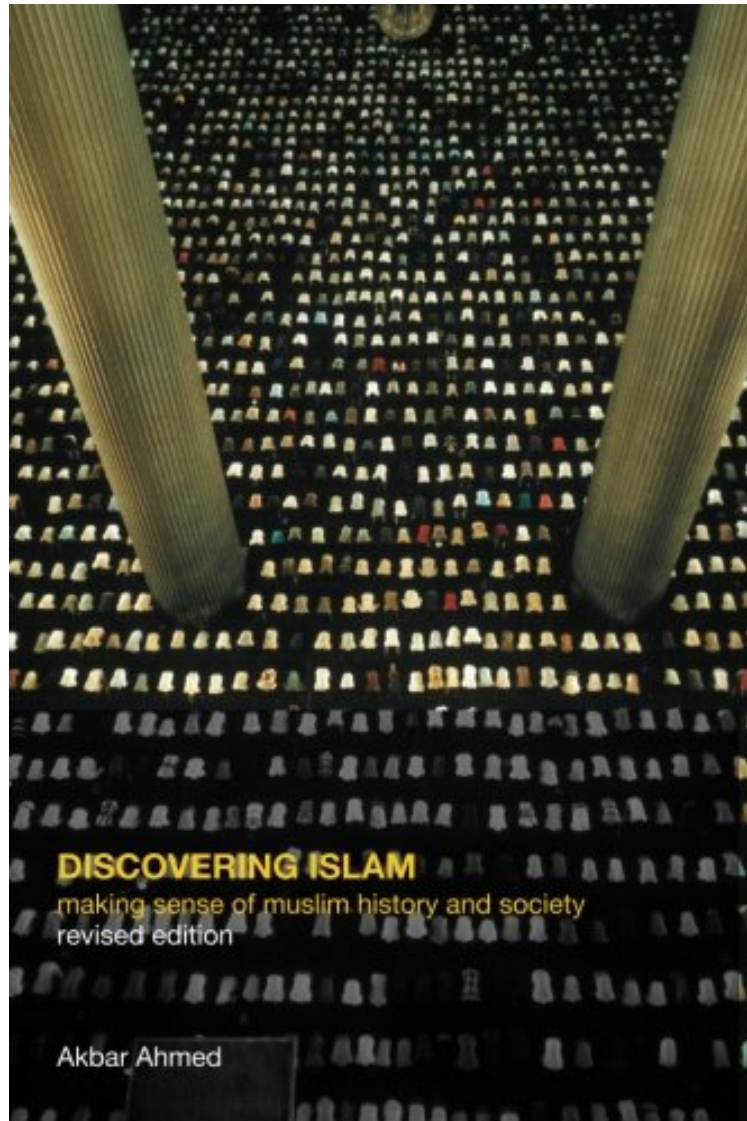


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Discovering Islam: Making Sense of Muslim History and Society

Akbar S. Ahmed

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#496083 in Books Akbar Ahmed 2002-03-31 2002-02-21Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x .62 x 6.141, .93 #File Name: 0415285259272 pagesDiscovering Islam Making Sense of Muslim History and Society | File size: 68.Mb

Akbar S. Ahmed : Discovering Islam: Making Sense of Muslim History and Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Discovering Islam: Making Sense of Muslim History and Society:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Islam which has and is still expanding so rapidly has been portrayed as corrupted and all its kings terribly bad peopleBy TareenThe historical events described are disjointed and

confusing. Islam which has and is still expanding so rapidly has been portrayed as corrupted and all its kings terribly bad people. The sayings of The Prophets have been quoted without verifying their authenticity. Many conclusions have been drawn on such unverified sayings. The author has worked hard in collecting information from various sources and lumped these up together. It is probably because of this approach that the events described seem disjointed. I had heard good opinion about this author and had expected to gain a lot but feel disappointed. 4 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Taqiyya Fest By Ramachandra B. Abhyankar This is holy deception (Islamic Taqiyya). For the truth about Islam, read the books: Leaving Islam: Apostates Speak Out edited by Ibn Warraq Why We Left Islam: Former Muslims Speak Out by Crimp and Richardson Jihad in the West by Paul Fregosi Understanding Muhammad: A Psychobiography by Ali Sina The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam by Robert Spencer Religion of Peace? by David Gregory 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. an anthropologist in Jerusalem By M. Fliegelmann I have been meaning to read this book for many years and finally got around to it. So much can be said about it. The most outstanding thing is that the book has withstood the effects of time very well: it is more relevant than ever and even prophetic. Some of Professor Ahmed's concerns have turned out to be extremely topical. The book obviously has no agenda of being an instance in Islamic scholarship and it is not surprising that some of the reviews written by readers take him to task on the detail. That was never the point. I think the purpose of the book was to take on the "makro" issues and that is where its strength is to be found. Professor Ahmed, though a loyal member of Islam and one that has never failed to live and write and think exhibiting solidarity as such, does have the courage to take on some sore points. He focuses on the very uneasy seam between modern "rational" thought and Muslim thought and is trying to hold on to the good while exposing the harmful. Harmful to Muslim society itself. Self criticism was not just a Communist mantra. It is such a marvelous tool for renewal and growth of any mode of thought and those who forgo it, harm, not only those they interact with (a thing inevitable in our global age) but much more clearly themselves. That is the main point that Professor Ahmed Akbar makes and his Muslim brethren would be so well advised to listen to him instead of confronting him. He clearly is on their side. His is Constructive Criticism. The book is very well written and worth reading. It should appeal to specialist and non-specialist alike. Yes there are some inaccuracies but that is not the point.

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.

Instructive, entertaining and even stimulating. - Middle East International Through an exploration of his experiences as a Muslim and his personal search for understanding, (Akbar Ahmed) sets before us the kindlier face of Islam and the dynamics of its history. - History Today This is a most readable book which will set Muslims and non-Muslims thinking. - Islam, Christian and Muslim Relations An in-depth analysis of Islamic history and society... required reading for students and researchers. - Colonel Ghulam Sarwar, The Voice of Islam