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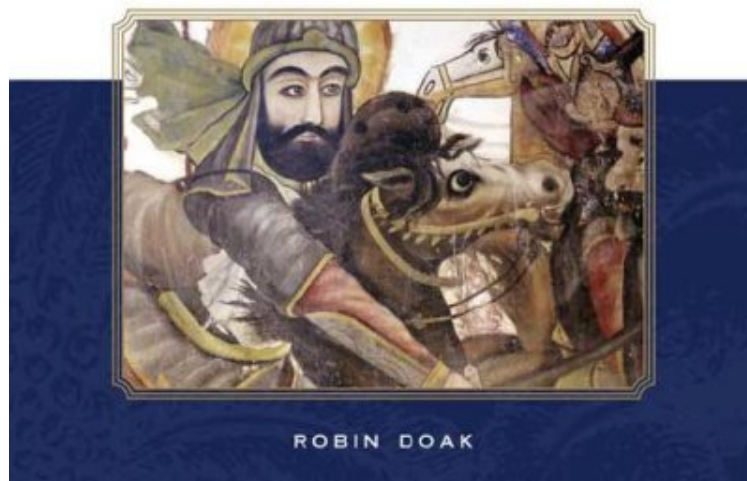
Empire of the Islamic World (Great Empires of the Past)


Robin Santos Doak

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EMPIRE *of the* ISLAMIC WORLD



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Robin Santos Doak : Empire of the Islamic World (Great Empires of the Past) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empire of the Islamic World (Great Empires of the Past):

4 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Grossly biased, celebrative and subjectiveBy hellotherepennameAlthough it is clearly an introduction to the islamic empire (a mere 100 pages), this book still manages to be a solid propaganda for everything islamic. Many times it mentions how various things in the west originates in the islamic world (tennis, architecture in florida, knowledge) but doesn't explain that in the last 100 years, things have only come from the west to the islamic world. (architecture, knowledge, technology) Nor does it mention the great upsetting of people: the people explosion of most islamic countries and the flow of these to the west - as well as the lack of westerners moving to the islamic world. When it mentions the meeting of west and islamic, it doesn't explain the unflattering side of the islamic empire, but only the victiimizing and flattering side: in the example below, the infobox "muslim influence in spain" has two lines about how the islamics came to spain (only says that they were

there) and then launches in a tirade of how the Christians threw them out, and underlines how cultured the Muslims are and what lasting impression they've left." At the height of the Islamic Empire, the Arabs controlled the southeastern two-thirds of the Iberian Peninsula. In addition to Cordoba, the Muslims revitalized such Spanish cities as Toledo, Granada, and Seville. For more than five centuries, Spain was a unique place in Europe, a region where culture and learning were valued and nurtured. By 1248, when Seville was conquered by Christian forces, the Muslims had lost control of all of Spain, except Granada. The conquerors did not initially expel all the Muslims. By about 1500 though, after the fall of Granada, things had changed. In their attempts to wipe out all traces of Muslim influence, the Christian conquerors banned Arabic and Muslims in Spain were faced with the choice of conversion or exile. Despite this, Islamic influences can still be detected throughout the region. For example, many Arabic words are part of the Spanish language. The Spanish expression *ol* comes from the Arabic *wallahi*, which means "by God!" Many other Spanish words that begin with *al* are Islamic in origin, including *alcachofa* (artichoke), *aldea* (village), and *aljibe* (well). "This is clearly a book designed to teach Muslim American children (or to make American children see the wonders of the Muslim cultures) whom a teacher desires to have a certain perspective. This book can not be used as an objective teaching instrument nor can it be used by adults as an introduction to Muslim culture and history, at least not without several other books on the subjects.

This well-written reference resource explores the Islamic Empire's society, culture, and daily life, including architecture and art; astronomy and mathematics; customs, holidays, sports, and foods; government systems; industry and trade; language and literature; military structure and strategy; and mythology and religious beliefs. While Islam, the world's second-largest religion, is the most obvious legacy of the Islamic Empire, the political and scientific contributions are equally formidable. *Islamic Empire* addresses these and other important connections to our modern world.

About the Author Robin Doak, a former editor of *Weekly Reader* and *U.S. Kids* magazine, has 18 years of experience writing for children. She has written more than 35 books for young readers on various subjects including history, geography, and science.