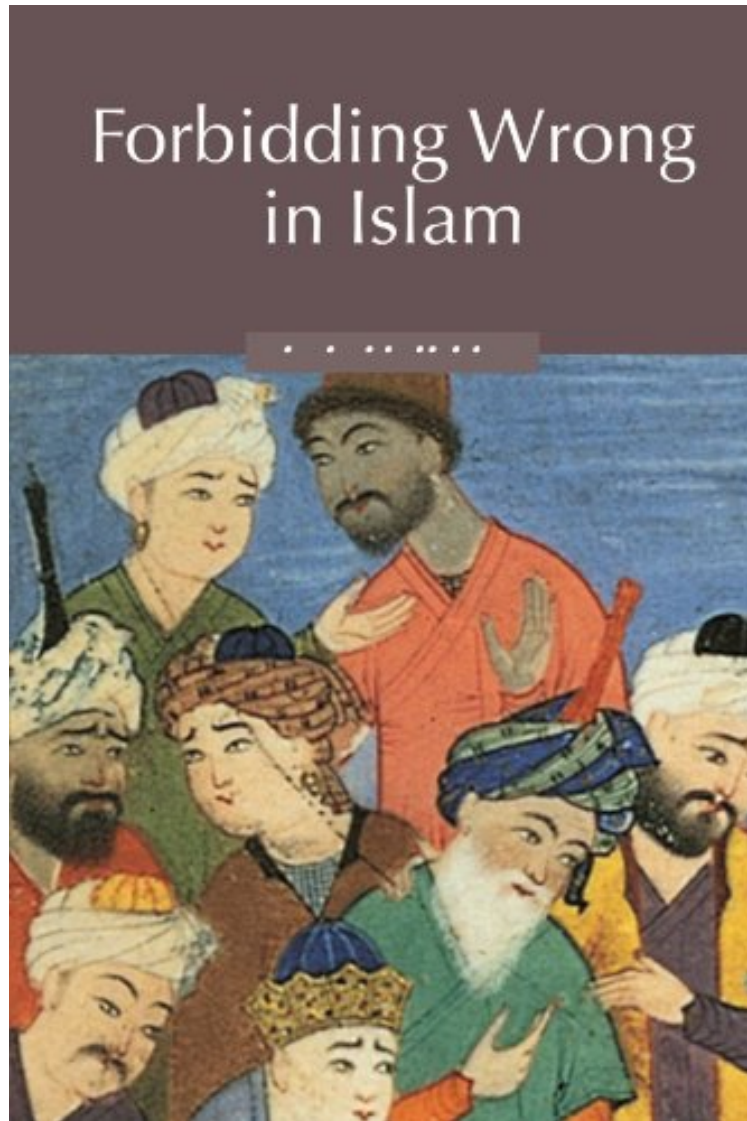


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Forbidding Wrong in Islam: An Introduction (Themes in Islamic History)

Michael Cook

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Michael Cook : Forbidding Wrong in Islam: An Introduction (Themes in Islamic History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forbidding Wrong in Islam: An Introduction (Themes in Islamic History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By SamGood3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Thorough Examination By Prudence Dear Michael Cook, in exploring the topic of (commanding right and

forbidding wrong in Islam approaches it in a very thorough manner; unfortunately, along the way, he discusses so many thinkers, scholars, and individuals that one has difficulty making sense of the actual concepts being outlined. Additionally, while his use of examples often adds to the overall understanding of the concept, it just as often hinders it, weighing down the prose with anecdotes instead of theory. As to the theory, he presents a detailed look at the concept of forbidding wrong in Islam with all its history, nuances, and implications. I found the last few chapters the most interesting. In them, Cook compared and contrasted this practice in the Islamic tradition with similar ones found in other monotheistic and philosophic traditions in both pre- and post-Islamic time frames. In doing so, he reveals similarities between the "irreconcilable" cultures of the East and West which significantly informed my reading of the subject. By placing the theory in a solidly European context, Cook also placed a previously foreign theory on the plane of the familiar, effectively shattering the popular concept of the "irreconcilable" differences and conflicts between the Islamic world and the mainly Judeo-Christian Western world. It was a fascinating read for anyone interested in expanding their sphere of knowledge and becoming a well-rounded individual.

Michael Cook's classic study, *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought* (Cambridge, 2001), reflected upon the Islamic injunction to forbid wrongdoing. This book is a short, accessible survey of the same material. Using Islamic history to illustrate his argument, Cook unravels the complexities of the subject by demonstrating how the past informs the present. At the book's core is an important message about the values of Islamic traditions and their relevance in the modern world.

"... this is an excellent book, one that provides a concise synthesis of one of the most important concepts driving Islamic thought." Brannon M. Wheeler, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*"... every modern student of Islamic law should study this work seriously." Afzal Sumar, *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies* About the Author Michael Cook is Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University. His publications include *Early Muslim Dogma* (1981), *The Koran: A Very Short Introduction* (2000) and *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought* (2000).