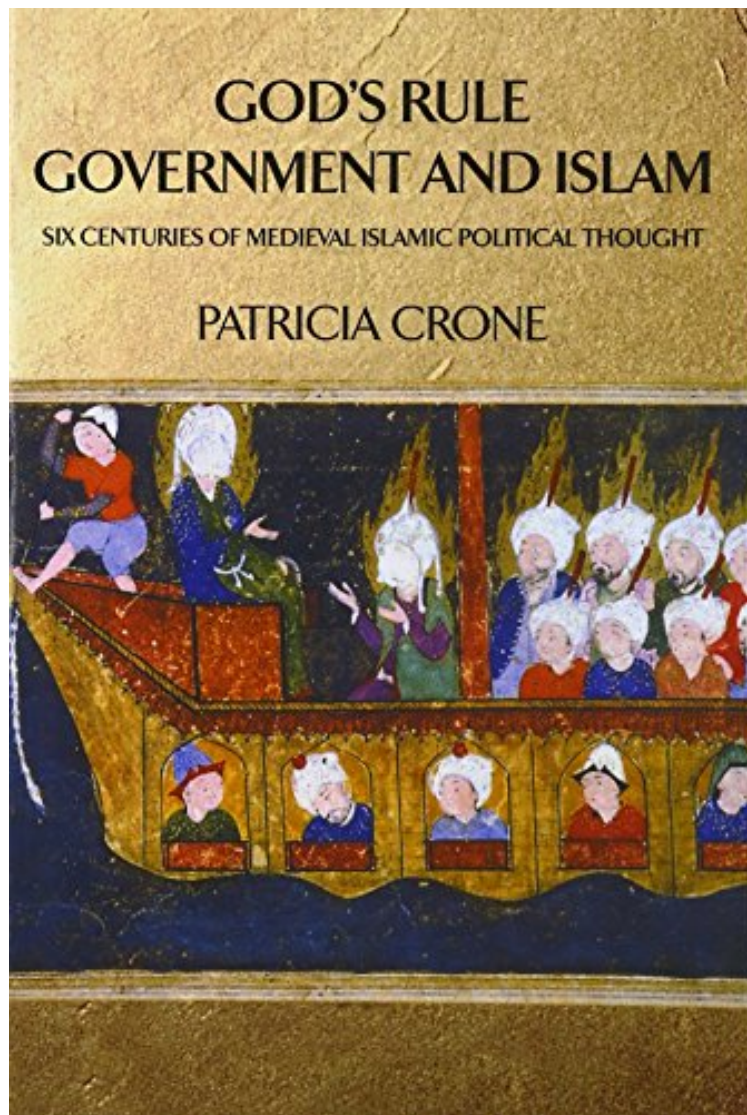


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Patricia Crone

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A reflection of a cultural relativity embedded in the 6th centuryBy Drindy KellerRemarkable how Ms. Crone was able to keep a sense of order to the multidiverse interpretations of Islamism. What is difficult to keep in place is how each family sect decided their own extension of the truth for being the conduits of the Prophet. Therefore, their 'laws' where not the same everywhere and vary from one region to another. Not only that, the ones deemed to be the 'scholars', by tinkering with the 'divine rules' would inevitably change the meaning that in turn would be different from the rest and perhaps very different from each other. It seems to me this inevitably causes much uncertainty and unrest. It reminds me of Schrodinger's version of Russian roulette where a cat stands in for the unfortunate experiment. In some the cat will be killed. In another he will remain alive. However, from the cat's perspective he is only aware of the latter and perceives that he survives. Any takers?0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very difficult book to read for the novice on Islam ...By Thomas GrimshawaVery difficult book to read for the novice on Islam. Must have a full background or the reader will be mostly lost. This is an important book from the historical perspective. Never has the saying been so true "The more things change the more they stay the same".0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Joseph Schudertoo difficult to read and ascertain the important take aways

Patricia Crone's *God's Rule* is a fundamental reconstruction and analysis of Islamic political thought focusing on its intellectual development during the six centuries from the rise of Islam to the Mongol invasions. Based on a wide variety of primary sourcesincluding some not previously considered from the point of view of political thoughtthis is the first book to examine the medieval Muslim answers to questions crucial to any Western understanding of Middle Eastern politics today, such as why states are necessary, what functions they are meant to fulfill, and whether or why they must be based on religious law. The character of Muslim political thought differs fundamentally from its counterpart in the West. The Christian West started with the conviction that truth (both cognitive and moral) and political power belonged to separate spheres. Ultimately, both power and truth originated with God, but they had distinct historical trajectories and regulated different aspects of life. The Muslims started with the opposite conviction: truth and power appeared at the same time in history and regulated the same aspects of life. In medieval Europe, the disagreement over the relationship between religious authority and political power took the form of a protracted controversy regarding the roles of church and state. In the medieval Middle East, religious authority and political power were embedded in a single, divinely sanctioned Islamic communitya congregation and state made one. The disagreement, therefore, took the form of a protracted controversy over the nature and function of the leadership of Islam itself. Crone makes Islamic political thought accessible by relating it to the contexts in which it was formulated, analyzing it in terms familiar to today's reader, and, where possible, comparing it with medieval European and modern political thought. By examining the ideological point of departure for medieval Islamic political thought, Crone provides an invaluable foundation for a better understanding of contemporary Middle Eastern politics and current world events.

This rich and wide-ranging book... is stimulating and provocative... [Crone's] lucid style aims to make a complex, ostensibly alien, tradition intelligible to the general reader as well as to the Islamic specialist. (Times Literary Supplement)The book is a masterpiece on the history of the tension existing between religion and politics. (Peter von Sivers Middle East Journal)The author, a distinguished Islamic scholar, cuts through a welter of misconceptions. (Robert Lebling Saudi Aramco World)Patricia Crone gracefully covers the first six centuries of Islamic political thought. (Zouhair Ghazzal Historian)Students today... will benefit greatly from this welcome study of early Islamic political thought. (Ronald J. Stansbury Christian Scholar's)About the AuthorPatricia Crone is Mellon Professor of Islamic History at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. She is author of several books including *Pre-industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Pre-modern World*; *Roman, Provincial, and Islamic Law*; *Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam*; and *Slaves on Horses: the Evolution of Islamic Polity*.