

WELCOME TO OUR NEW REGULAR FEATURE, "WHAT ONE BOOK . . ." BOOKMARKS WILL INTERVIEW THE EXPERTS TO GET READING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SPECIFIC ISSUE, TOPIC OR THEME. IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE US ADDRESS A SPECIFIC TOPIC, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO LETTERS@BOOKMARKSMAGAZINE.COM

# what one book... Islam

## IN THIS ISSUE: WHAT ONE BOOK SHOULD YOU READ ABOUT . . . ISLAM?

During the summer of 2002, a Christian policy group sued the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for distributing a summer reading assignment to its 3,600 incoming freshmen students. The book selected turned out to be more contentious than *Catcher in the Rye*, *The Laramie Project*, or *On the Origin of Species*. The book was *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*, which contained short passages from the Islamic holy scriptures. The policy group, backed by the state legislature and the Anti-Defamation League, argued that the assignment constituted religious indoctrination. Defendants claimed that reading Islamic verses presented valuable insight into an important culture. After much debate, the book stayed in the curriculum.

Since 9/11, interest in Islamic history, religion, and culture has grown for scholars, students, politicians, and lay audiences wishing to engage in debate about the role of Islam in world affairs. *Bookmarks* asked experts in the field for their reading recommendations:

### BERNARD LEWIS



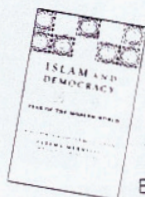
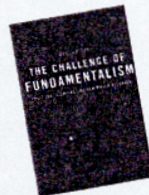
Bernard Lewis is Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. He is one of the world's most respected scholars of

the history of medieval Islam, the Ottoman Empire, and the contemporary Middle East. His sixteen books include the titles: *The Muslim Discovery of Europe* (1982), *Islam and the West* (1993), *The Future of the Middle East* (1998), *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response* (2002), and, just published, *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror* (2003).

#### SUGGESTED READING

**The Challenge of Fundamentalism: Political Islam and the New World Disorder**

By Bassam Tibi (1998).



**Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World**

By Fatima Mernissi (1992).

#### Modern Islamic Political Thought

By Hamid Enayat (1982).

"All three are by Muslim authors, one Moroccan, one Syrian, one Iranian. All three deal with urgent current issues from an internal Muslim perspective, on the basis of wide-ranging critical scholarship, self-critical analysis and a refreshing lack of both polemic and apologetic."

### DANIEL PIPES



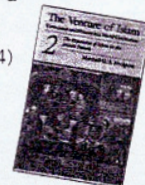
Daniel Pipes is director of the Middle East Forum and columnist for the *New York Post* and *The Jerusalem Post*. A former official in the Departments of State and Defense, he has taught at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and the U.S. Naval War College. He is the author of twelve books on the Middle East and Islam, including *Militant Islam Reaches America* (2002) and *In the Path of God: Islam and Political Power* (1984). He also serves on the "Special Task Force on Terrorism and Technology" at the Department of Defense, and was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve on the board of the U.S. Institute of Peace. For additional recommendations: [www.danielpipes.org/biblio\\_me.php](http://www.danielpipes.org/biblio_me.php).

#### SUGGESTED READING

**The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization (3 vols.)**

By Marshall G. S. Hodgson (1974)

"A deep history of Islam and of its role in the public sphere."



#### Islam in Modern History

By Wilfred Cantwell Smith (1957)

"A masterful interpretation of the travails Muslims have experienced over the past two centuries."



**Islam and  
Dhimmitude  
Where Civilizations  
Collide**

By Bat Ye'or (2002)

"Ambitious and consequential analysis of Muslim relations with non-Muslims."



**What Everyone  
Needs to Know  
About Islam**

By John L. Esposito  
(2002)

"A brief introduction to Islam in a question-answer format that focuses on questions and issues raised after 9/11."



**A History of the Arab Peoples**

By Albert Hourani (2nd ed. 2003)

"Although Hourani is writing about Arab history rather than only religion, his survey of Islamic institutions and the historical development of the Arabs after the advent of Islam is a masterful synthesis of the best modern scholarship on the subject."



**JOHN L.  
ESPOSITO**

John L. Esposito is University Professor of Religion and

International Affairs and Founding Director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. Author of more than a dozen books on Islam, his most recent titles include *The Oxford History of Islam* (1999), *Iran at the Crossroads* (2001), and *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam* (2002).

**SUGGESTED READING  
Islam**

**A Thousand Years of Faith and Power**

By Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair (2000)

"A superb introduction to the first millennium of Islam, and complements their video, *The Empire of Islam*."



**The Heart of Islam  
Enduring Values for Humanity**

By Seyyed Hossein Nasr (2002)

"A major scholar of Islam, reflecting on the essence of Islam, presents the core spiritual and social values of Islam. Relating them to their counterparts in the Jewish and Christian traditions, he discusses the common ground of the Abrahamic faiths."



**JUAN COLE**

Juan Cole is Professor of History at the University of Michigan and the author most recently of *Sacred Space and Holy War: The Politics, Culture and History of Shi'ite Islam* (2002). This book has several chapters on the Iraqi Shi'ites, and Cole has commented on that subject recently on *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, John Gibson's *The Big Story*, and National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*.



**SUGGESTED READING  
Approaching the Qur'an  
The Early Revelations**

By Michael Sells (1999)

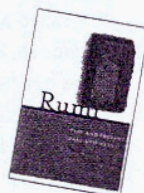
"This translation of some of the early chapters of the Koran is among the best in conveying the beauty and subtlety of the original. The accompanying CD gives one a sense of the sonorous quality of the recited Koran."



**Rumi  
Past and Present, East and West**

By Franklin Lewis (2000)

"A lucid, sensitive literary biography of Islam's greatest mystic poet, Jalal al-Din Rumi (d. 1273), whom Coleman Barks's energetic translations has made among the best-selling poets in the U.S. Rumi's commitment to love as the supreme Islamic value comes through brilliantly."



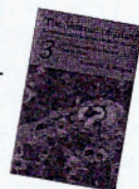
**AHMAD DALLAL**

Ahmad Dallal is Associate Professor of Islamic History at Stanford University. He works on the history of Islamic science as well as the premodern and early modern Islamic reform, and is completing a book on traditions of reform in 18th century Islamic thought.

**SUGGESTED READING  
The Venture of Islam  
Conscience and History in a World Civilization (3 vols.)**

By Marshall G. S. Hodgson (1974)

"A bit outdated, but still one of the most comprehensive attempts to provide a narrative of Islamic political, social and cultural history as a world historical process and within the context of global history."



**The Patricians of Nishapur  
A Study in Medieval Islamic Social History**

By Richard Bulliet (1972)

"A compelling study that charts out the structures of social order and self-governance in medieval Islamic cities. Bulliet paints a detailed picture of the mechanisms through which urban society constituted itself and negotiated its internal structure as well as its relationship to political, dynastic powers."