

# The Islamic World: Past and Present



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Since the events of September 11, 2001, students and people everywhere are filled with questions about Islam. What do Muslims believe? Who is Osama bin Laden? What is a jihad? Even though Islam is a major religion with more than one billion followers worldwide and more than six million in the United States alone, there is still uncertainty and misunderstanding about the ideas, tenets, and practice of Islam.

Understanding Islam and the people who believe in it has become crucially important in the greater world. *The Islamic World: Past and Present* is the ideal source for fostering understanding and answering questions. John Esposito's acclaimed four-volume *The Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World* (1995) set the standard in references on Islam. Adapted from this award-winning set, *The Islamic World: Past and Present* brings all the scholarship and information of the original to general readers and college and high school students.

In addition to the more approachable language and user-friendly page layout, this reference covers events and changes of the last eight years. It also includes entirely new entries to provide coverage of the premodern world of Islam. Containing more than 300 articles, it provides an excellent, comprehensive resource for gaining understanding into a belief system that seems mysterious and incomprehensible to many.



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