



A History of Islamic Societies

By Ira M. Lapidus

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A History of Islamic Societies provides an authoritative and comprehensive treatment of the civilisations and patterns of life of Muslims throughout the world. Part I deals with the formative era of Islamic civilisation from the revelation of the Qur'an to the Thirteenth century and examines the transformation of Islam from a complex of doctrines and cultural systems into the organising principles of Middle Eastern Society. Part II traces the creation of similar societies in the Balkans, North Africa, Central Asia, China, India, Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Part III considers the transformation of these societies under the forces of technological change, industrial revolution and European imperialism. It describes the emergence of modern economies, national states and secular ideologies in Muslim countries and seeks to assess the role of past Islamic institutions and present Islamic movements in the shaping of contemporary Muslim society.

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A History of Islamic Societies By Ira M. Lapidus Bibliography

- Rank: #2055565 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cambridge University Press
- Published on: 1988-01-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x 2.20" w x 5.98" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 1040 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Respected scholar Lapidus here emphasizes what he argues to be the distinctive features of Islamic societies—the developments of communal, religious, and political institutions. The book's first section deals with the Islamic transformation of traditional Middle Eastern societies; the second, the diffusion of Middle Eastern Islam to other regions; and the last, the disruptions of Muslim societies with the collapse of the Islamic empire and European domination. The book covers Africa and Central and Southern Asia as well as the Middle East. Recommended for all research and general library collections. J. Anthony Gardner, California State Univ., Northridge

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Review

'... a brilliant tour de force ... For anyone, student or professor, who wishes to grasp the special quality of Islamic history and its bearing on the present problems of Islamic societies, this book should be their place of first resort.' Francis Robinson, History Today

About the Author

Ira M. Lapidus was Professor of Islamic history at the University of California at Berkeley.

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