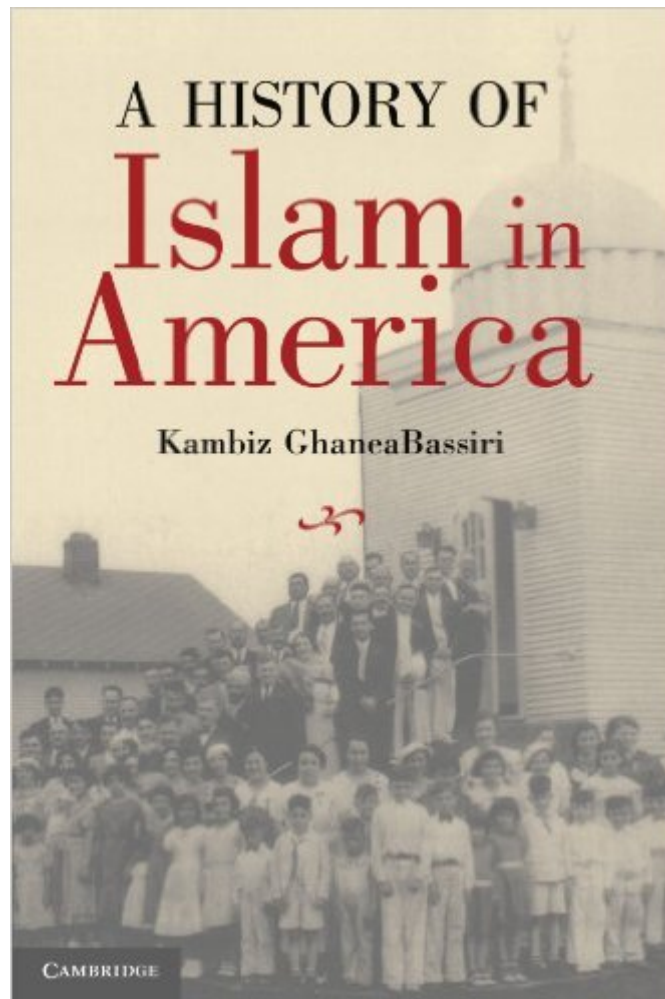


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A History Of Islam In America: From The New World To The New World Order



Synopsis

Muslims began arriving in the New World long before the rise of the Atlantic slave trade. The first arrivals date to the turn of the sixteenth century when European explorers and colonists crossed the Atlantic in search of new horizons and trading routes. Kambiz GhaneaBassiri's fascinating book traces the history of Muslims in the United States and their different waves of immigration and conversion across five centuries, through colonial and antebellum America, through world wars and civil rights struggles, to the contemporary era. The book tells the often deeply moving stories of individual Muslims and their lives as immigrants and citizens within the broad context of the American religious experience, showing how that experience has been integral to the evolution of American Muslim institutions and practices. This is a unique and intelligent portrayal of a diverse religious community and its relationship with America. It will serve as a strong antidote to the current politicized dichotomy between Islam and the West, which has come to dominate the study of Muslims in America and further afield.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Professor Kambiz GhaneaBassiri's work is a welcomed addition to the growing scholarly literature on Islam in America. What puts this apart from other works is his insistence in breaking away from the typical dichotomy of "Islam vs the West," as if these two categories are mutually exclusive from each other. He argues this categorization and comparison is reminiscent of Orientalism's comparison of "Islam vs. European Modernism." The author shows the development of Islam in America through the lens of American history itself: dealing with the changing aspects of race,

religious pluralism, and national identity. It is an interesting read and will in my opinion, help change the views about Islam and Muslims in America.

This book by GhaneaBassiri is really great for an overview, as well as many details, about how Muslim immigrants and slaves were forced to acculturate and assimilate to the American culture in order to survive. This overview begins as early as the European explorers who discovered America all the way until recent modern-day and post-9/11. This book gives a lot of information in every sentence and, while it is a good thing to include a lot of information, it almost makes it difficult to read. The pictures that are sparsely included offer better visuals of certain people, events and circumstances. He also makes some claims about disassociation from Islam and de-negrofication as well as conversion to Christianity and it raises some questions. Could these actions really have altered the power dynamic between races? Were these conversions genuine or were they made for pure survival? These are the kinds of questions GhaneaBassiri doesn't answer in his text.

There is not a lot of great scholarly work done on Islam in America and this is one of those great works. My only caveat is that the book relies on quotations so much that there are times I think it is just a book of quotations. Outside of this the book is well structured and thorough.

The Book was well written and really well thought out. The one downfall to the book is it is hard to follow and because it is written with a historical narrative reader may have trouble following it. That being said I was fascinated with this book and how it followed Islam from Africa to the United States. The book does a great job of showing the struggle that Islam has faced in the United States.

The book was well written and very well thought out. Some readers may struggle to keep interest because the book is written as a history book. That being said the book was fascinating and a good read. It creates a means of understanding how Islam came to the United States through slave trade from Africa. If you want to understand Islam in the United States the book should be on your must read list.

This book is very thorough. It includes various movements, their origins, and impacts. It discusses the interaction between people's lived religious identities and the surrounding culture.

A visionary approach to a tough subject. Ghaneabassiri has created a solid base and platform for

intelligent dialogue about Islam and Islamic cultures in diaspora.

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