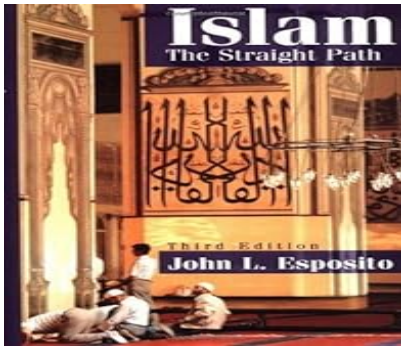


Islam: The Straight Path By John L. Esposito

He does see that the future of Islam lies in its ability or inability to adjust to the changing demands of pluralism and adherents continuous struggle in defining their relationship in the West as either Muslims in the West or Western Muslims. It's not really relevant to understanding Islam unless you're studying where the extremist groups first originated or you just want to know about the historical movements of the religion. He is well known as a promoter of strong ties between Muslims and Christians and has challenged the Vatican. He is a professor of International Affairs and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University. A prolific writer Professor Esposito is the author of over 25 books including *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam*, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* and *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam*. The author an internationally renowned expert on Islam traces the development of this dynamic faith and its impact on world history and politics discussing the formation of Islamic belief and practice (in law theology and mysticism) and chronicling the struggle of Muslims to define and adhere to their Islamic way of life. Lucidly written and expansive in scope the third edition of *Islam: The Straight Path* provides keen insight into one of the world's least understood religions and is ideally suited for use in courses on Islam comparative religions and Middle Eastern history and culture. *Islam: The Straight Path* This is the book I recommend to people who want to better understand Islam as both a religion and a global political phenomenon. This is a great resource for anyone confused by the Sunni/Shi'ia divide or who wants to understand distinctions between the Muslim Brotherhood the Taliban Hamas and various Salafist organizations. However I felt that sometimes Esposito tried to defend Islam from Western critique (which I have no problem with in of itself) but would later write about certain tenets in Islam that kind of disproved the points he was trying to make. And yet I feel like he expended so much energy on why the Arab invaders were not a bad force etc while describing their erosion of the Sasanid Empire and spread into Asia. This is a book I think everyone in the west should read so as to gain an insight into the culture and faith of Muslims and how to not allow media bias to prejudice our interactions with our Islamic brothers and sisters: Perfect for an introduction and jumping off point for willing learners about Islam, Esposito.

He is a professor of International Affairs and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, He is also the director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal center for Muslim Christian understanding at Georgetown University: Esposito was raised a Roman Catholic in an Italian neighborhood in Brooklyn New York City and spent a decade in a Catholic monastery: After taking his first degree he worked as a management consultant and high school teacher, He then studied and received a masters in theology at St. He earned a PhD at Temple University Pennsylvania in 1974 studying Islam and held post doc appointments at Harvard and Oxford: He is also the director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal center for Muslim Christian understanding at Georgetown University, Esposito was raised a Roman Catholic in an Italian neighborhood in Brooklyn New York City and spent a decade in a Catholic monastery: After taking his first degree he worked as a management consultant and high school teacher: He then studied and received a masters in theology at St, He earned a PhD at Temple University Pennsylvania in 1974 studying Islam and held post doc appointments at Harvard and Oxford, He is well known as a promoter of strong ties between Muslims and Christians and has challenged the Vatican to make greater efforts to encourage such ties, A specialist in Islam political Islam and the impact of Islamic movements from North Africa to Southeast Asia Dr. Esposito serves as a consultant to the Department of State as well as multinational corporations governments universities and the media worldwide: In 2005 Professor Esposito won the American Academy of Religion's prestigious Martin E. This award honors a scholar who has been exemplary in promoting the public understanding of religion: He is also the Editor in Chief of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World* *The Oxford History of Islam* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam*. {site_link}



This exceptionally successful survey text introduces the faith belief and practice of Islam from its earliest origins up to its contemporary resurgence, This third edition has been updated throughout and is enhanced by new material in order to more accurately reflect the true diversity of Muslim cultures, A study of Pakistan has been added to the existing country-by-country survey broadening the scope of the volume beyond the countries of the Middle East for the first time, A new section on Islam in the West explores the significance of the Muslim presence in the U. Great Britain and Europe examining some of the issues it has raised: Noteworthy figures including Malcolm X Warith Deen Muhammad and Louis Farrakhan are also considered, In the final chapter Esposito discusses modern Muslim thinking on such issues as religious pluralism democracy and human rights. In clear simple readable text Esposito explains for the history and ideology of Islam and its offshoots, Esposito This is a good basic text on Islam from history to orthodoxy to the variety of sects in the religion of Islam, The Protestants in the group thought that Esposito's view of "Christianity" was a view of pre-Vatican II Catholicism, Recommended although some found No god but God a better choice: Esposito This book merits four and a half stars but I rounded down to four: The book is excellent and filled with information and opposing theological strains within Islam: For instance the question of why did the Arabian Muslims seek to expand never felt adequately answered. Esposito himself notes that researchers have not been able to agree on that matter, Other than that grievance this book was by far the best book offered in my theology class. As noted previously different theological viewpoints were given in a clear and succinct way: This book is the only book in my course literature that I do not want to sell: I feel like this book will be relevant as long as Islamophobia (ie overblown fear of Islamic terrorism and general European xenophobia) exists: Esposito I mostly skimmed through and read the parts that interested me: But it provided a good overview of the development of Islam the divisions within Islam and beliefs/practices, I especially found the info on how early Islam improved the rights of women to be interesting: However I was hoping there would be more on Indonesia here (the country with the largest Muslim population) but I guess you can't cover everything in a college survey textbook. Esposito Islam: The Straight Path is a really poignant and engaging introduction to the vast topics surrounding Islam: Esposito presents the complex history of 13 odd centuries of faith innovation expansion trade commerce and sadly in more recent times the spread of fanaticism, Esposito If i had to start my quest to learn about Islam/Arab culture all over i would start with this book, Esposito Recommend this to anyone interested in learning more about the complete history of Islam and its origins: Impressed at the current-day focus of the latter half of the book as well: Esposito This book is an excellent primer on Islam on a multitude of dimensions: historical religious modern cultural anthropological scientific. I found this book to be the best guide to Islam and I especially enjoyed its final chapter which dealt with modern history (up to mid-2009): It assimilates the many different streams of Islam into a readable work but one that is certainly well-researched and well written. This book was read for a course on Islam and I found it nearly as helpful as the classes attended: Esposito doesn't give too many editorial comments about the history he is describing which I like. A great read that is neither dense nor superficial. John L. Esposito 297 John L. Esposito Very dry. I though John Esposito could do much better than that. John L. Johns University. John's University. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion.S. John L. (Review by Metro West) John L. This made essay writing on Islam easy and frankly fun. John L. John L. John L. John L. John L. John L. John L. Just the facts ma'am.

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